エコエコアザラク 9

SHŌNEN CHAMPION COMICS

●恐怖コミックス●

古賀　新一

エコエコアザラク 9

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古賀新一

●恐怖コミックス●　古賀　新一

秋田書店

ヒョウタンツギ

古賀 新一

第9巻

SHŌNEN CHAMPION COMICS

〈週刊少年チャンピオン掲載〉

エコエコアザラク（第9巻）

♥もくじ♥

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●この作品はフィクションです。

THE ILLUSIONARY EMERGENCY STAIRCASE

T/N: THE SIGN READS "TOKYO PRISON".

WHAT'S WRONG?

HUH?

関東刑務所

UUHYOH! FIVE YEARS LATER AND I'M FREE!

UNFORTUNATELY NO. NOT A SOUL...

AIN'T ANYONE COMING TO SEE ME?

MY BRO SHOULDA HEARD ABOUT IT!

N... NO WAY! YOU TAKING ME FOR A FOOL?!

BRO!

7"

I FIGURE HE WOULDA KNOWN MY SENTENCE WAS UP TODAY...

NO ONE'S THERE!

NO WAY, NOT MY BRO. HE'D NEVER DO THAT...

IT COULDN'T BE, DID HE BETRAY ME...

I'M SURE THERE MUST BE SOME REASON HE COULDN'T COME TODAY.

ME AND HIM GO WAY BACK. WE WERE RAISED TOGETHER, LIKE REAL BROTHERS!

味のセンター

WE EVEN MADE OFF WITH THE MONEY.

THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A DAY.

銀行

FUFUFU. THIS IS THE BANK ME AND BRO RAIDED FIVE YEARS BACK.

TOKYO

BUT THE COPS WERE SOON AFTER US...

SHIT! A POLICE CAR!

DON'T TELL ME YOU PLAN TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF AND GET ARRESTED...

TH... THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU?!

THEY'RE STILL FAR AWAY. LET ME DRIVE, YOU GET OUT WITH THE MONEY.

WHAT DO WE DO, BRO?

YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GET OUT!

WAIT BRO, I'D BE BETTER SUITED FOR PRISON LIFE.

...

FUFUFU.

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

SHUT UP AND GO! I'LL DEAL WITH THE REST...

WH... WHAT THE, GOROU!

GOROU...

I NEVER SAW ANY NEWS ABOUT HIM GETTING ARRESTED EITHER, SO HE SHOULDA MADE IT OUT SMOOTHLY.

AFTER THAT I PRAYED THAT BRO WOULD MAKE IT OUT SAFELY, AND WAS CAUGHT BY THE COPS.

AT ANY RATE. ONCE I MEET UP WITH HIM AGAIN I CAN GET HALF OF ALL THAT CASH.

I'M REALLY GONNA SPREAD MY WINGS AND HAVE SOME FUN IN THIS BIG OL' TOWN!

A FAIR PRICE FOR FIVE HARD YEARS IN PRISON.

THERE MUSTA BEEN A GOOD 50 MILLION YEN THERE.

AHAHAHAHA!

TALK ABOUT AN OLD, RUNDOWN JOINT...

I HEARD FROM A MATE WHO WAS ARRESTED AFTER ME THAT BRO HAD A TRADING FIRM AROUND HERE...

HAHAAH, IT'S THIS BUILDING.

FEELS LIKE A MONSTER'S GONNA JUMP OUT AT ME.

WOAH, THIS IS NASTY. LIGHT'S AIN'T EVEN ON.

IF I RECALL RIGHT THE COMPANY WAS MEANT TO BE ON FLOOR SIX...

EVEN THE BLOODY ELEVATOR'S OUT OF ORDER.

NOTHING FOR IT, I'M GONNA GO TAKE THE EMERGENCY STAIRS UP.

NO WAY CAN I WALK DOWN HERE.

WHAT A FREAKY BUILDING.

IT'S PITCH BLACK FROM THIS POINT ON!

EEEEEP!

タ タ

THESE STAIRS ARE KINDA CREEPY.

THERE'S A LIGHT ON OVER THERE!

BRO!

ダ

チャ

ダア

YET THAT SAFE'S OPEN?!

NO ONE'S HERE?!

W... WOAH, ALL THIS MONEY!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN HERE...

THIS IS THE MONEY WE STOLE FROM THE BANK!

THE HEATER'S ON TOO, MAYBE THEY'RE IN THE TOILET?

BUT WHY WOULD THE DOOR TO A SAFE WITH SO MUCH MONEY JUST BE OPEN...

T/N: THE SIGN READS "GONE TO COFFEE SHOP MISA - GURO OOTA."

COFFEE SHOP MISA EH...

HAHAAH, SO HE POPPED OUT?

HM?

喫茶店「三十」に行ってくるMO 大田黒

COFFEE

WELCOME.

喫茶 三十

IS GURO OOTA-SAN HERE?

BUT IT'S TRUE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN A YEAR AGO?! ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE THE PISS OUT OF ME?!

YES, HE WAS HERE ABOUT A YEAR AGO.

GURO OOTA-SAN...

OF COURSE HE'S NOT HERE NOW, I MEAN HE'S ALREADY LONG GONE FROM THIS WORLD.

IDIOT! I'M ASKING YOU WHETHER HE'S HERE NOW OR NOT!

BRO'S DEAD...?!

Y... YOU'RE SAYING HE'S DEAD?!

THEN WHO'S USING THE OFFICE IN THAT BUILDING OVER THERE?!

N... NO WAY!

CORRECT, HE GOT IN AN ACCIDENT LAST YEAR..

TH... THEY'RE GOING TO KNOCK IT DOWN?!

OH NO, THE BUILDING'S VACANT. IN FACT THEY'RE GOING TO KNOCK IT DOWN SOON.

THE HEATER WAS ON AND THE KETTLE WAS BOILING.

WHAT ABOUT BRO'S OFFICE?

BUT WAIT.

COME TO MENTION IT, THAT BROKEN ELEVATOR WAS FULL OF SPIDER WEBS.

PLUS THE SAFE WAS FULL OF MONEY!

SLOW DOWN, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE AN ELECTRIC TORCH OR SOMETHING.

THE BUILDING'S PITCH BLACK, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK THROUGH OTHERWISE.

I FIGURED THERE'D BE TONS OF PEOPLE COMING AND GOING.

SHE WAS RIGHT, ALL THE ROOMS ARE EMPTY ON EVERY FLOOR.

THIS IS IT, THE SIXTH FLOOR.

6

AND THE DOOR WASN'T BROKEN BEFORE!

大田黒事務所

FEELS A BIT DIFFERENT TO HOW IT WAS!

OH?

T/N: THE DOOR READS "GURO OOTA'S OFFICE".

大

AAAH!

THE SAFE!

THAT'S THE HEATER WHICH WAS ON...

IT'S A MESS, AND FILLED WITH SPIDER WEBS!

GEEEH! IT'S EMPTY!

HIS SPIRIT?!

IT'S LIKELY YOU'VE BEEN POSSESSED BY GURO OOTA-SAN'S SPIRIT.

H... HUH?!

WHAT YOU SAW WAS AN ILLUSION.

BUT THE TRUTH IS, AS YOU CAN NO DOUBT SEE, THAT THE BUILDING'S IN RUINS...

HELL, I SAW IT CLEAR AS DAY WITH MY OWN TWO EYES...

NO WAY! SPIRITS DON'T EXIST.

TH... THERE'S NO FUCKING WAY!

DOES THAT MEAN I SPENT FIVE YEARS IN THE SLAMMER FOR NOTHING?!

NO, I'M SURE I SAW MONEY IN THE SAFE.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO IT'S POINTLESS.

OKAY, I'M GONNA GO LOOK FROM THE FIRST FLOOR AGAIN!

NO! I SAW BRO'S OFFICE, IT IS DEFINITELY IN THIS BUILDING!

I'M GONNA FIND THAT ROOM, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.

SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE.

"THE DEAD WISH TO BRING THE LIVING TO THE OTHER WORLD."

LONG AGO PEOPLE WOULD OFTEN SAY "THE DEAD YEARN FOR THE LIVING." THEY'D ALSO SAY...

HE'S TRULY BEEN POSSESSED BY THE SPIRIT.

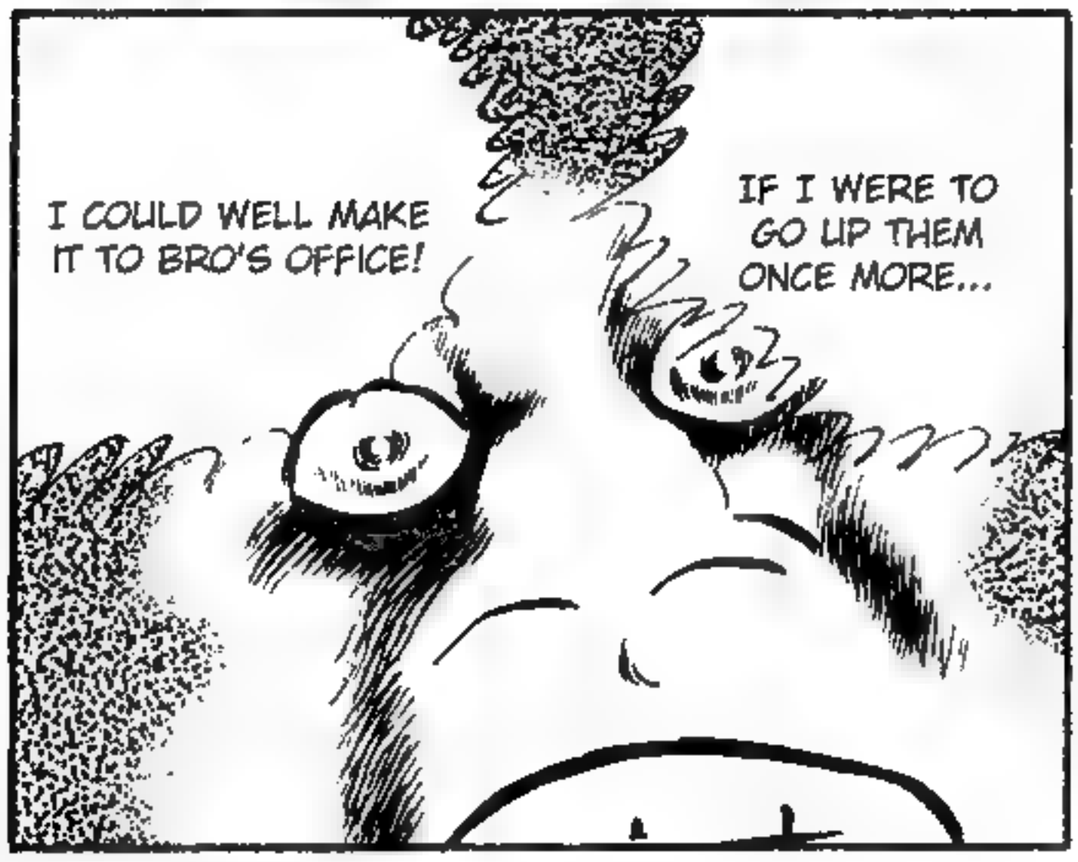
AT LENGTH HE LEFT THE BUIDING, BUT...

UUUUH.

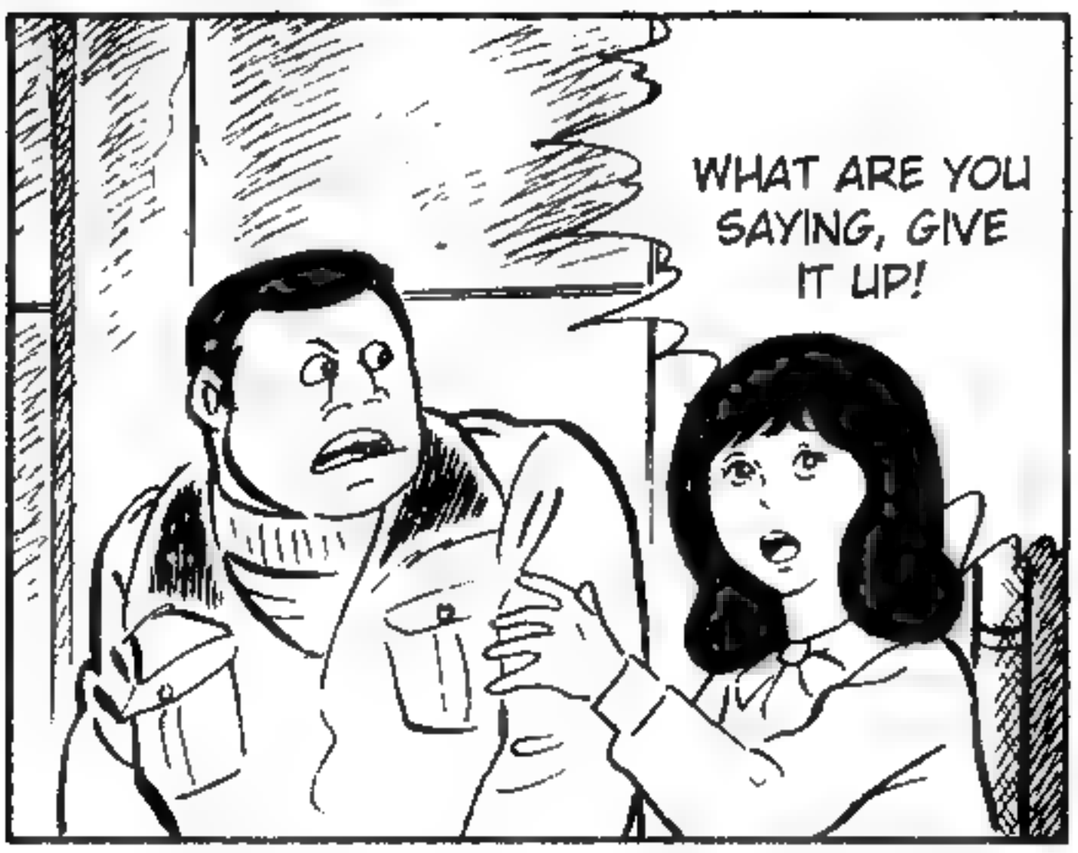
HAAH, HAAH.

SHIT! THEY REALLY ARE ALL EMPTY!

THE EMERGENCY STAIRCASE!


I COULD WELL MAKE IT TO BRO'S OFFICE!
IF I WERE TO GO UP THEM ONCE MORE...

THAT'S RIGHT! I FIRST CLIMBED UP HERE, DIDN'T I!


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, GIVE IT UP!

YOU MUSTN'T CLIMB THOSE STAIRS!

DON'T GO!

IT REALLY IS THERE!

ALRIIIGHT!

HM!

AH! I CAN SEE THE LIGHT, IT'S THE ROOM FROM BEFORE!

HEEEY, IF IT AIN'T GOROU...

BR... BRO!

OF COURSE NOT, US TWO ARE AS CLOSE AS REAL BROTHERS.

I KNEW IT, I KNEW YOU'D NEVER TRY AND BETRAY ME.

I CAME TO SEE YA.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

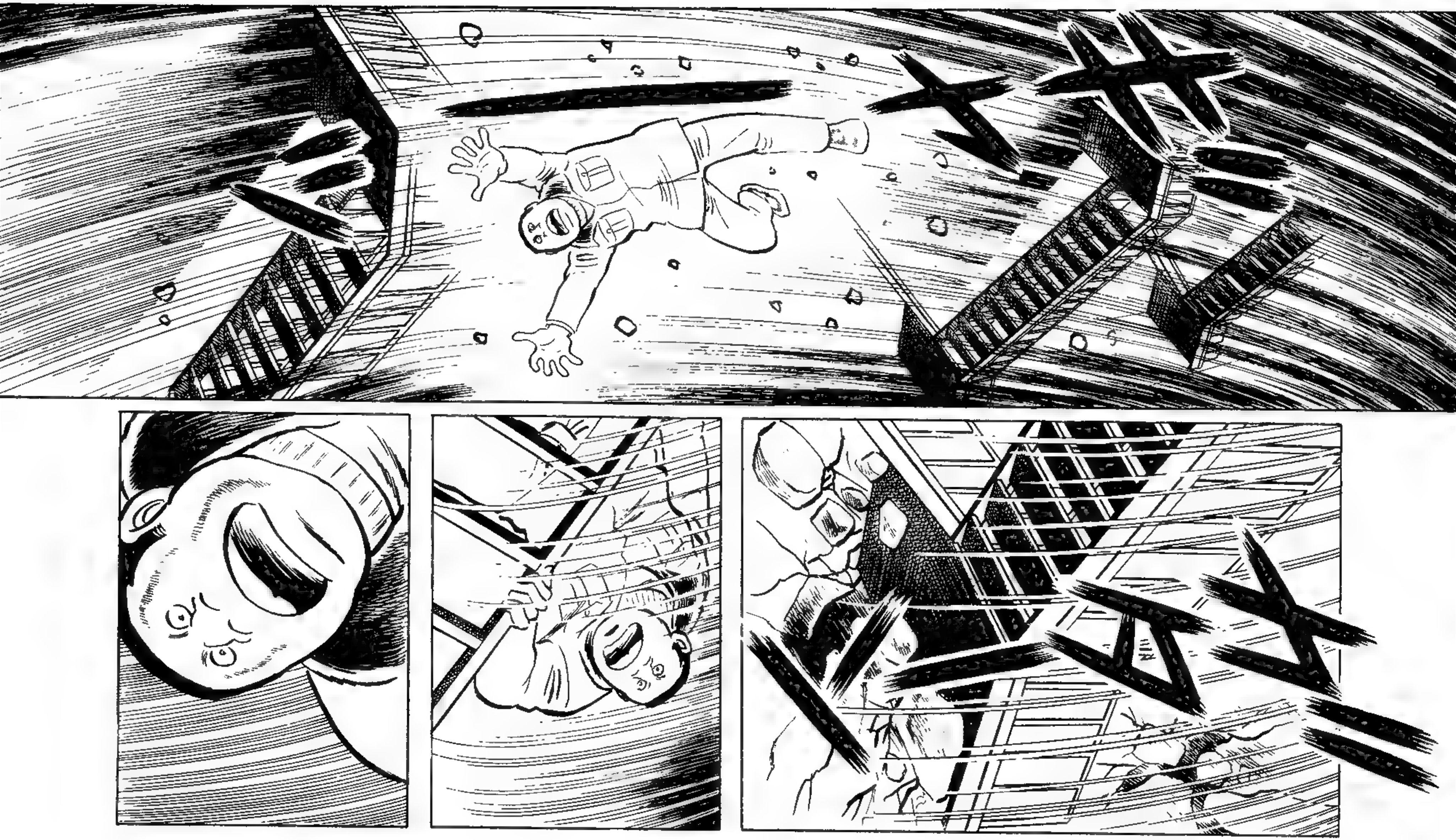
SO HOW'S ABOUT YOU COME WITH ME GOROU, TO THE OTHER WORLD...

THAT'S WHY I WAS REAL LONELY WITH YOU GONE...

AT ANY RATE, THE BUILDING'S REAL OLD LIKE...

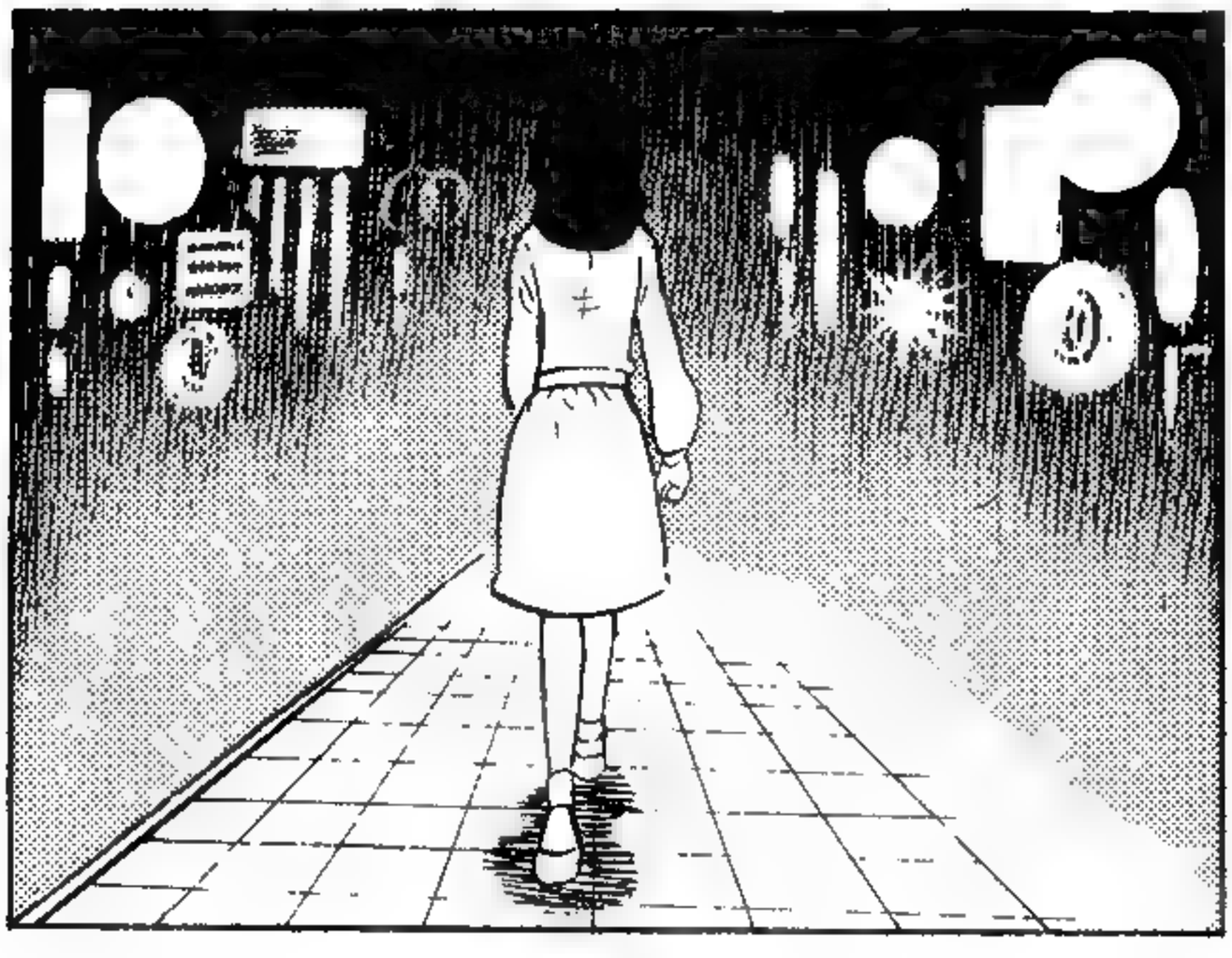
SEE I HAD AN ACCIDENT ON THESE STAIRS.

TH... THE OTHER WORLD?



AND THAT'S WHY I TRIED SO HARD TO STOP YOU...

Warning!
It is dangerous to use the stairs!



♣ヨコハマ
♣アザラク

CURSES ARE LIKE CHICKENS,
THEY ALWAYS COME HOME TO ROOST

HAAH!

HAAH!

MY HANDS ARE GONNA GET FROSTBITE.

TONIGHT'S ESPECIALLY CHILLY.

UUUUUUUUUH, I'M FREEZIIING!

HOLD ON JUST A MOMENT!

OOOOKAY, LET'S CALL IT HERE FOR THE NIGHT.

PLUS NO ONE'S ABOUT IN THIS COLD.

T/N: THE BOX READS "FORTUNES".

WOULD YOU LEND ME YOUR POWERS FOR SOMETHING.

THAT'LL BE MY PAYMENT, SO HOW'S ABOUT IT?

TH... THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY!

EEEEEEP!

AFTER ALL, BUSINESS HAS BEEN POOR RECENTLY...

BUT OF COURSE, ASSUMING IT'S SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH, I'D BE GLAD TO.

O... OI!

SO IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE SUCH A LAVISH CUSTOMER APPEAR BEFORE ME!

IT'S YOUR VAUNTED BLACK MAGIC I WANT!

NONE OF THAT!

I CAN TELL YOUR FORTUNE WITH MY TAROT CARDS, OR THROUGH MY CRYSTAL BALL.

VERY WELL THEN, WHAT IS IT YOU'RE AFTER?

DARE I SAY YOU WANT TO CURSE AND KILL SOMEONE...

IT CAN'T BE FOR SOMETHING PLEASANT.

IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN...

...

SNAKE MEN?

YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT SNAKE MEN, THEY OFTEN APPEAR IN FILMS.

D... DON'T BE ABSURD, I DON'T WANT YOU TO OUTRIGHT KILL THEM.

WELL, WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS, MY FACE RESEMBLES THEIRS!

...

KYAAAAAAH!

AHAHAHA!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I SCARE MYSELF WHEN I SEE MY FACE IN THE MIRROR.

HAAH.

EH? NO, WELL, IT'S JUST...

SO EVEN YOU FIND MY FACE TERRIFYING.

OF COURSE. WHO IS IT THAT'S TROUBLING YOU?

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.

BUT, JUST BECAUSE I RESEMBLE A SNAKE MAN DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T GET ANGRY WHEN I'M TREATED WITH DISGUST.

OH MY, YOUR WIFE YOU SAY...?

MY WIFE.

DARLING!

SHE'S ALWAYS SO PROUD OF HER BEALITY, WHICH MEANS SHE LIKES TO THROW HER WEIGHT AROUND.

BY ALL ACCOUNTS SHE'S MY EXACT OPPOSITE, A DAZZLINGLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

DON'T FORGET THE PAPER!

OF COURSE, I'LL DO SO AT ONCE.

I KEEP TELLING YOU THAT YOU'RE TO BRING ME MY COFFEE WHEN I WAKE UP!

YES, YES. WHAT IS IT.

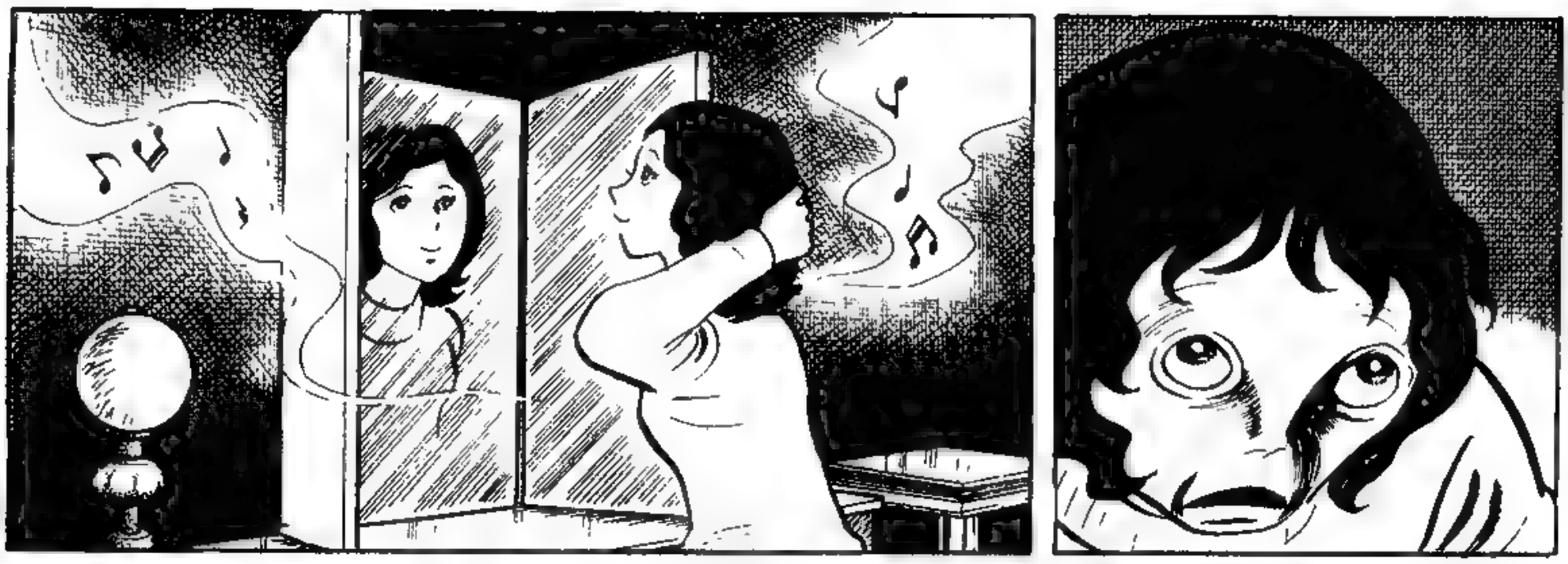
...

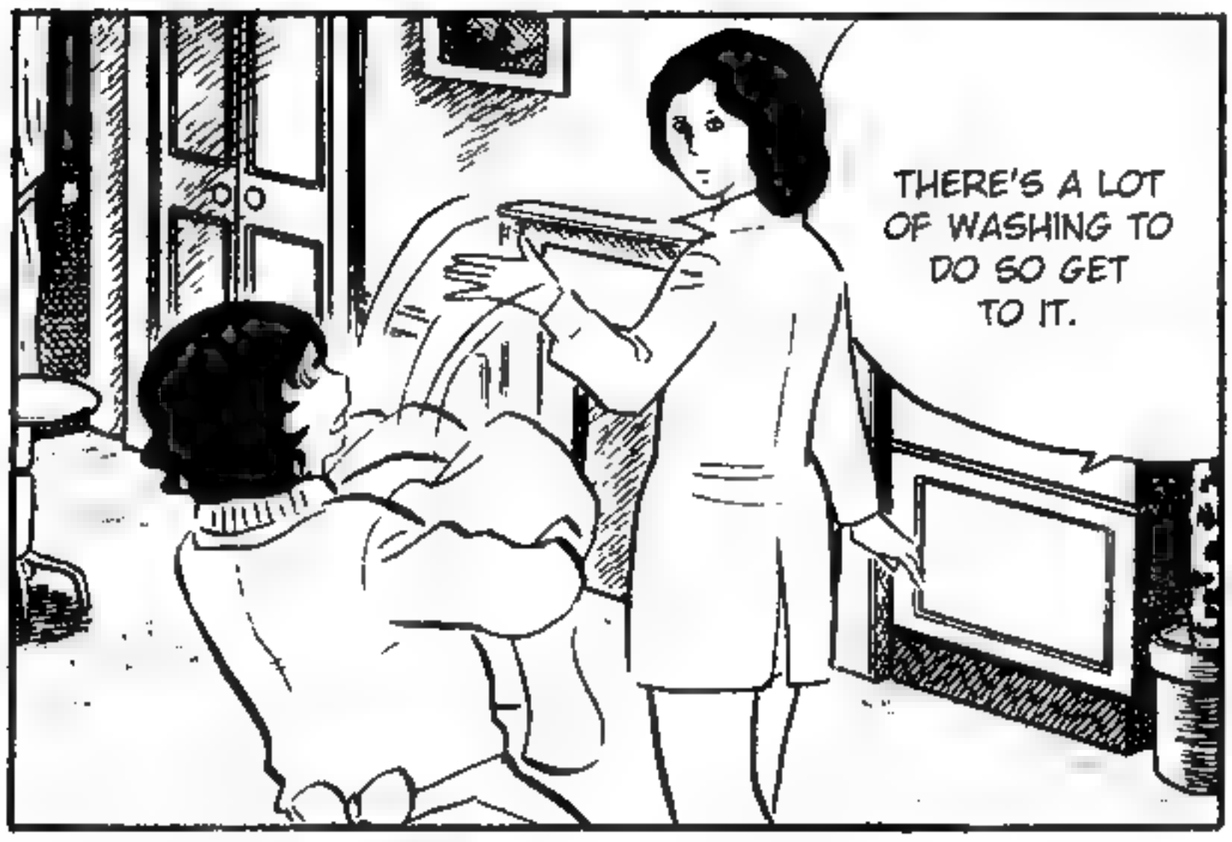
IDIOT. IT'S BEALISE I'M LOOKING AT YOUR FACE WHILE EATING.

REALLY NOW? I'M SURE I DID A VERY GOOD JOB COOKING TODAY.

AAAAGH, IT'S AS BAD AS EVER.

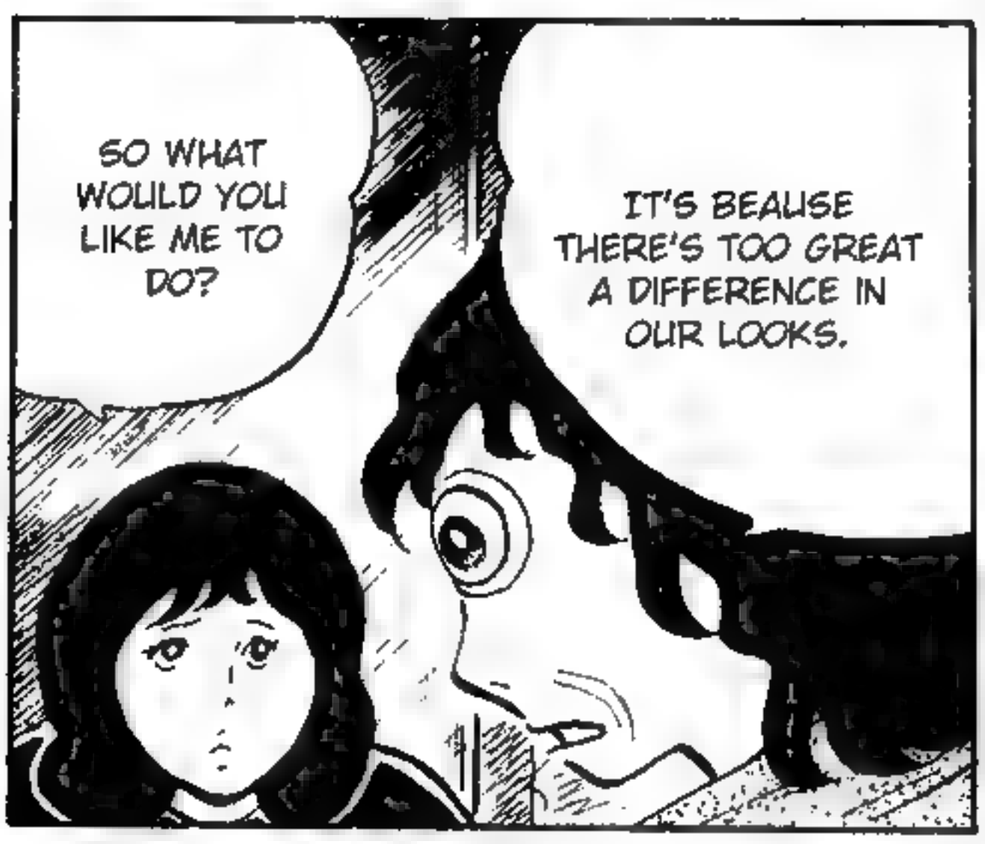
AND GET STARTED ON BREAKFAST RIGHT AWAY!




THERE'S A LOT OF WASHING TO DO SO GET TO IT.

YEP. GOING TO SEE A MOVIE WITH SOME FRIENDS.
ARE YOU GOING OUT AGAIN.

OH MY.
AND THAT'S HOW IT IS, MY WIFE'S ALWAYS PICKING ON ME.


SO WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO?
IT'S BEAUSE THERE'S TOO GREAT A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LOOKS.

MAKE SURE YOU KEEP A GOOD WATCH ON THE HOUSE, SNAKE MAN-CHAN.
HAVE FUN.

EEH?!

WHAT I WANT IS FOR YOU TO MAKE HER FACE LIKE MINE, THAT IS A SNAKE MAN'S, NO, A SNAKE WOMAN'S!

IF WE'RE BOTH EQUALLY UGLY THEN THINGS'LL BE A LOT BETTER.

THAT'S A FINE IDEA.

I SEE.

A MOST TERRIFYING SPELL, IT WILL NOT ONLY CHANGE THE AFFLICTED'S FACE INTO THAT OF A MONSTER'S, BUT THEIR BODY AS WELL.

VERY WELL. THERE ARE MANY BLACK MAGIC SPELLS, BUT I'LL USE MY SPECIALITY, A SABBATH CURSE.

EH, THAT MANY...?

HOWEVER, I WILL NEED ANOTHER 12 PEOPLE TO HELP, NOT INCLUDING YOU.

THAT IS TO SAY IT'S THE NUMBER, 13, WHICH WILL HELP CURSE HER.

13 IS SEEN AS AN UNLUCKY NUMBER.

I GET IT.

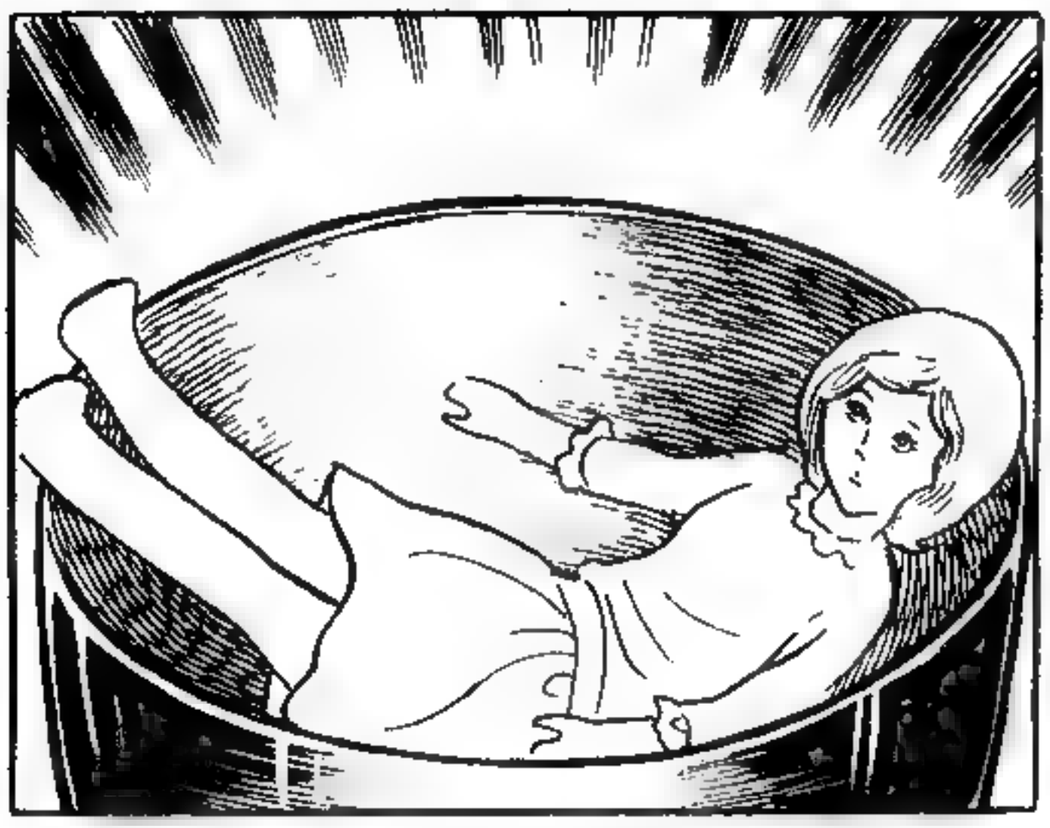
UNDERSTOOD, I'LL GET 12 OF MY FRIENDS TOGETHER.

WITH THAT IN MIND, YOU MUST HOLD HANDS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND CHANT THE INCANTATION I TAUGHT YOU.

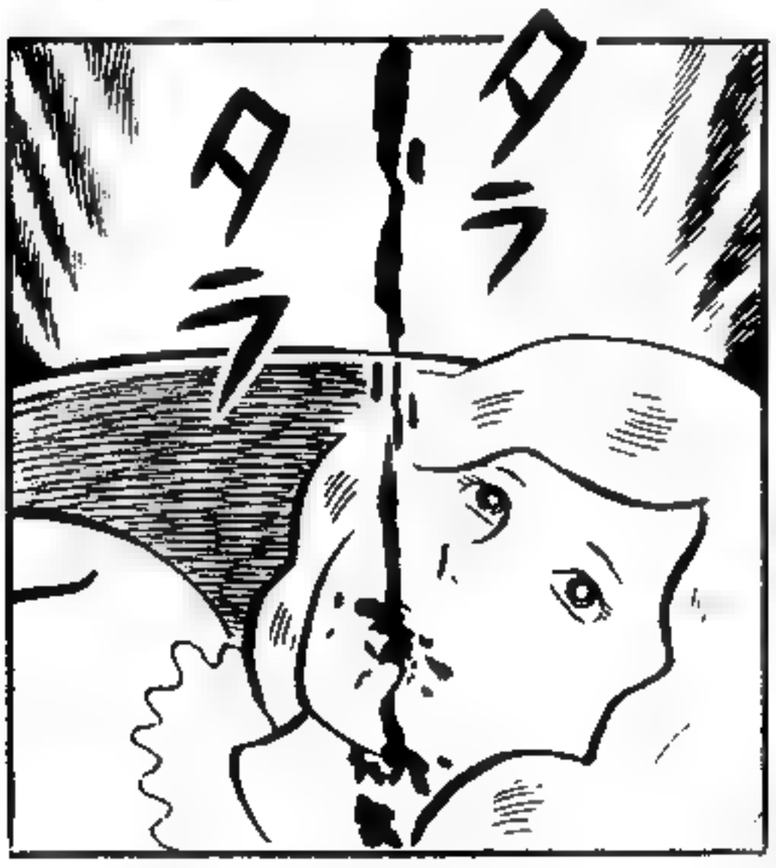
LISTEN WELL. NO ONE HERE MUST BEAR ANY ILL THOUGHTS.

EKO EKO ZAMERAK!

EKO EKO AZARAK!



OKAY, I WANT YOU TO POUR THIS SNAKE'S BLOOD INTO THE DOLL'S MOUTH.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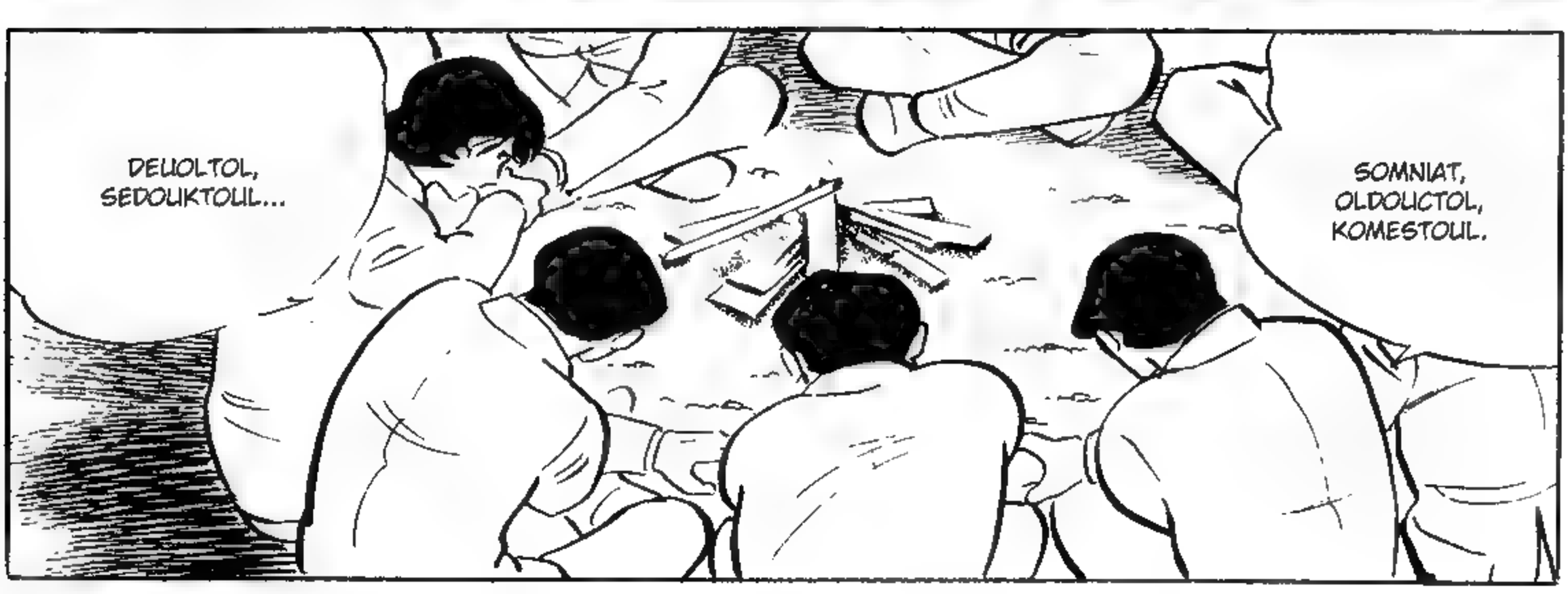
ALTO, OREPIDAT, ORTEN, TATOOL...

MAY A SNAKE POSSESS YOUR BODY...
RECITE THE INCANTATION WITH THE UTMOST HATRED FOR THE ONE YOU'RE CURSING...


DELIOLTOL, SEDOLIKTOUL...
SOMNIAT, OLDOUCTOL, KOMESTOUL.

I JUST FELT A LITTLE SICK.

WHAT'S WRONG?

UUH.

GEEH!

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, OTHERWISE THE CURSE WILL BACKFIRE ON YOU.

GEEH!

GEEH!

AS THOUGH I WERE THE ONE DRINKING BLOOD...

EKO EKO ZAMERAK...

EKO EKO AZARAK!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER.

THEN SHE REALLY MUST'VE BEEN POSSESSED BY A SNAKE.

THEY HAVE. SINCE YESTERDAY MY WIFE'S BEEN LAID UP IN BED.

EH, SO HAVE THE EFFECTS OF THE BLACK MAGIC APPPEARED?

BEFORE LONG HER WHOLE BODY, FROM HER FACE DOWN, WILL BE COVERED IN SNAKE SCALES...

BUT OF COURSE, FUFUFU...

IT'LL BE A TERRIBLE SHOCK FOR HER.

SHE'LL HAVE BECOME A REAL SNAKE WOMAN. FUFUFU.

S... SUICIDE?!

AND I'M SURE SHE'LL COMMIT SUICIDE BECAUSE OF IT.

THEY SAY A WOMAN'S FACE IS HER LIFE.

UFUFUFUFU!

CORRECT. THAT WAS MY GOAL ALL ALONG!

SO I FIGURED I'D TRY AND MAKE UP FOR THE UNBEARABLE LIFE I'VE HAD.

DESPITE HAVING ALL THIS WEALTH, I COULDN'T LIVE AS I WANTED.

CORRECT. YOU SEE I'D BEEN ADOPTED.

THEN WITH YOUR WIFE GONE YOU'LL HAVE FULL ACCESS TO ALL YOUR ASSETS?

EEH?!

AHAHAHA!

JUST REMEMBERING IT GIVES ME CHILLS.

EVEN SO, WHEN I CAST THE BLACK MAGIC IT WASN'T A PARTICULARLY NICE FEELING.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR TOMORROW.

HAH!

ヒィィ エーィィ

SHIT. HOW GROSS, TO DREAM ABOUT SWALLOWING A SNAKE OF ALL THINGS.

JUST A DREAM...

ガラガラガラ

THE INSIDE OF MY MOUTH IS FEELING PRETTY NASTY NOW.

WHAT'S WRONG, WHY THE LOUD SHOUT?

GYAAAAH!

EEEEEP!

STOP TALKING NONSENSE!

WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

A... A SNAKE CAME FROM MY MOUTH!

HAH... HAH...

YOU'RE STILL HALF ASLEEP!

ハッ

THAT'S RIGHT, YOUR BLACK MAGIC FAILED.

YOU SAY THERE ARE SNAKES LIVING INSIDE YOUR BODY?!

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND?!

IT'S LIKE I'M A REAL SNAKE MAN NOW!

THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE SCALES APPEARING ON MY FACE?!

YOU SAY I IMAGINED IT?!

THERE'S NO WAY, YOU MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT.

DON'T PLAY DUMB, WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON WITH MY FACE?!

WHAT A TERRIBLE, AND FALSE, ACCUSATION TO MAKE.

COME TO THINK OF IT, MY WIFE DID RECOVER RIGHT AWAY.

THE GIRL'S OBVIOUSLY BETRAYED YOU.

ONE TO REMOVE THE MONSTER FROM YOUR BODY.

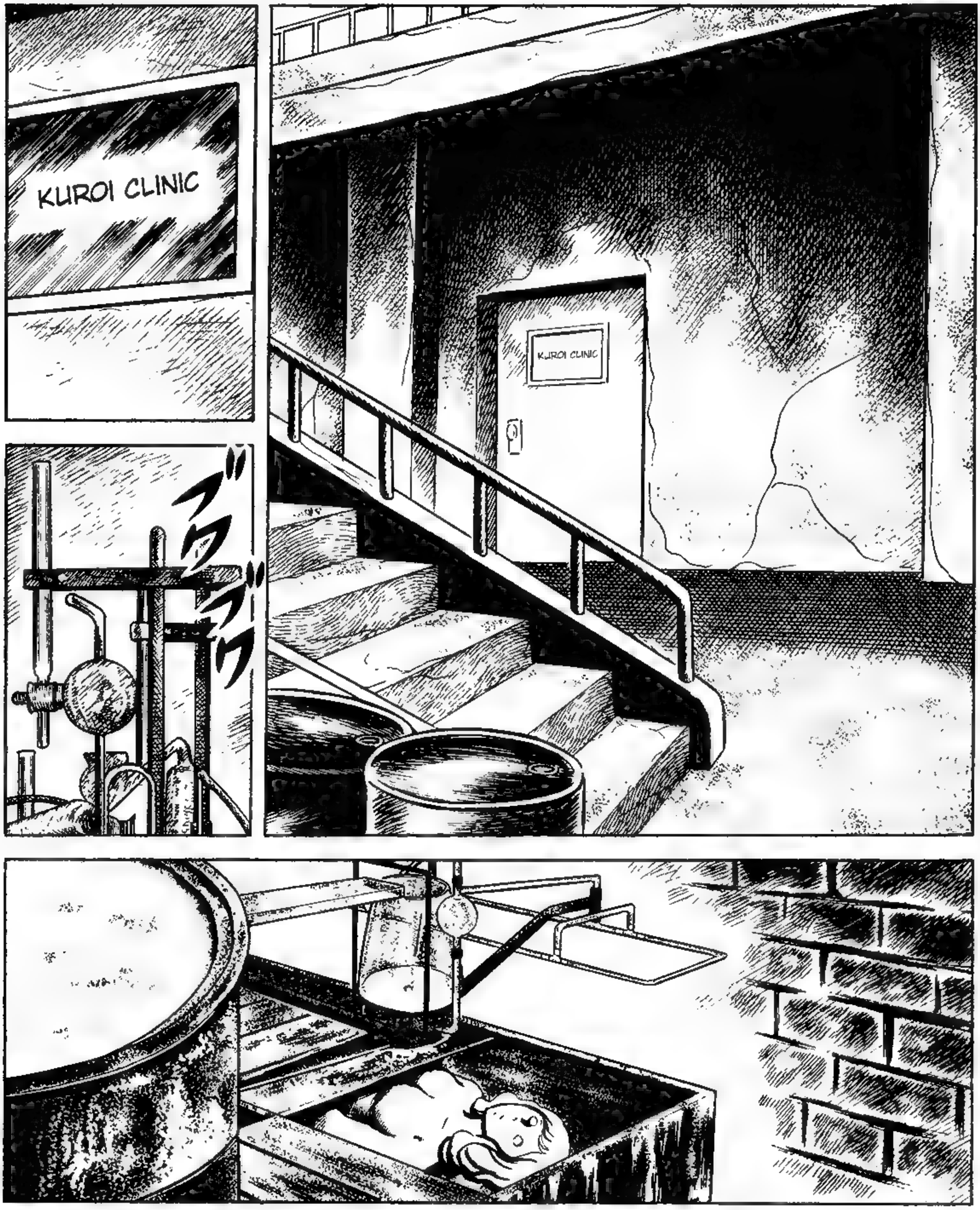
CORRECT.

A MAGIC OPERATION...?

WE COULD TRY A MAGIC OPERATION ON YOU.

I SUPPOSE THERE'S A CHANCE SOME SORT OF MONSTER HAS GRAPPLED ONTO YOUR BODY.

ANYTHING WILL DO, JUST HURRY UP AND RETURN ME TO NORMAL!


KUROI CLINIC
KUROI CLINIC

THE PROCEDURE WILL SOON BE OVER.

THIS IS A REAL CREEPY SURGERY.

OH MY, THERE'S SO MANY!

IT'S BIZARRE, TAKE A LOOK AT THE SNAKES THAT WERE INSIDE HIS BODY...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SENSEI?

OH?

EEEEEEP!

SEE, ALL OF THESE!

COUGH! COUGH!

HANG IN THERE!

HE... HE'S THROWING UP BLOOD?!

WH... WHAT IN THE WORLD, HE DIED?!

HE'S... HE'S DEAD?!

?!

FUFUFU, OF COURSE HE DID...

GEEH!

AFTER ALL, THESE ARE HIS INSIDES!

CURSES ARE LIKE CHICKENS, THEY ALWAYS COME HOME TO ROOST. KEKEKE...

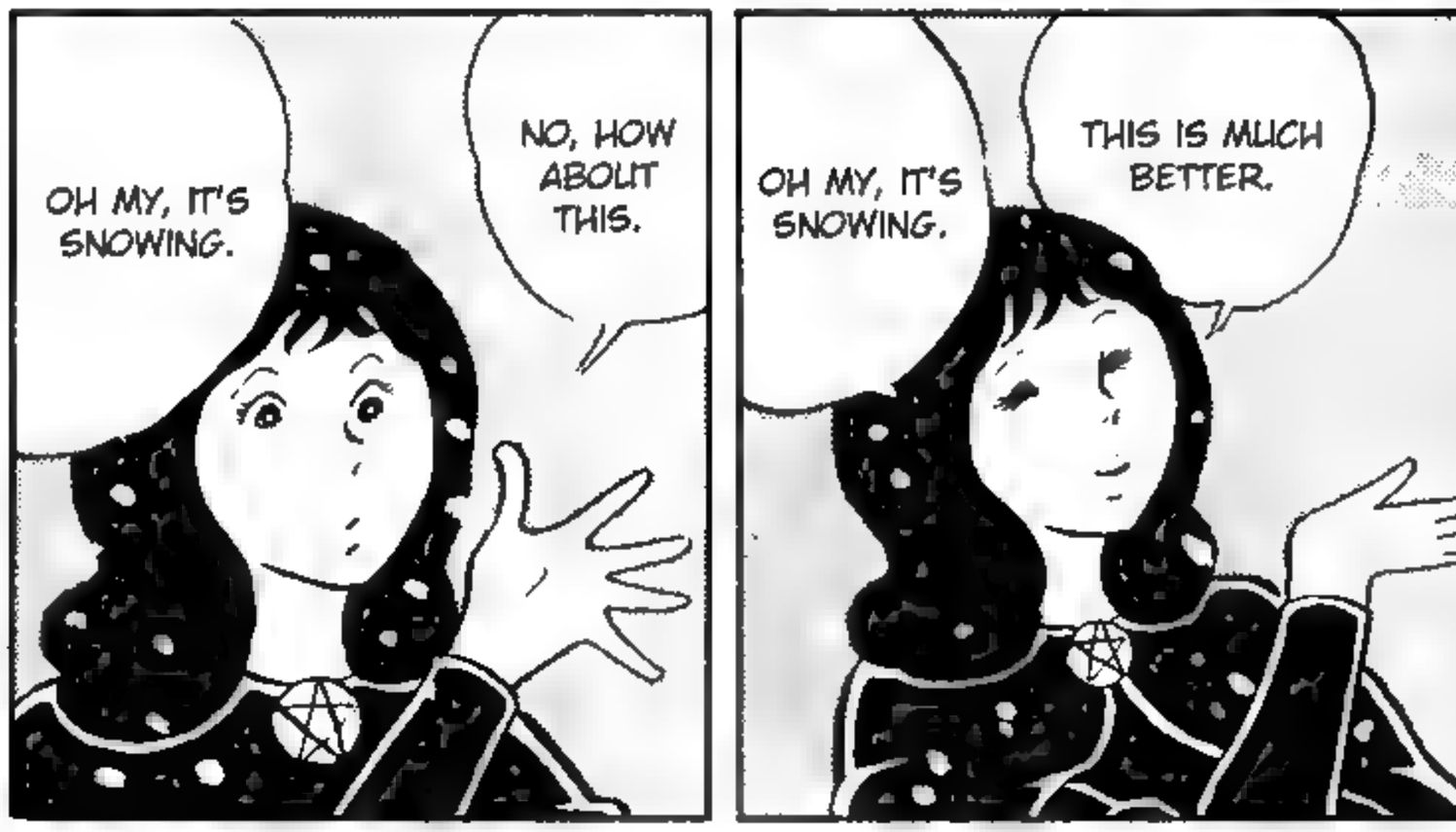
FOOL, I'D BEEN PLANNING ON PUNISHING THAT MAN FROM THE START.

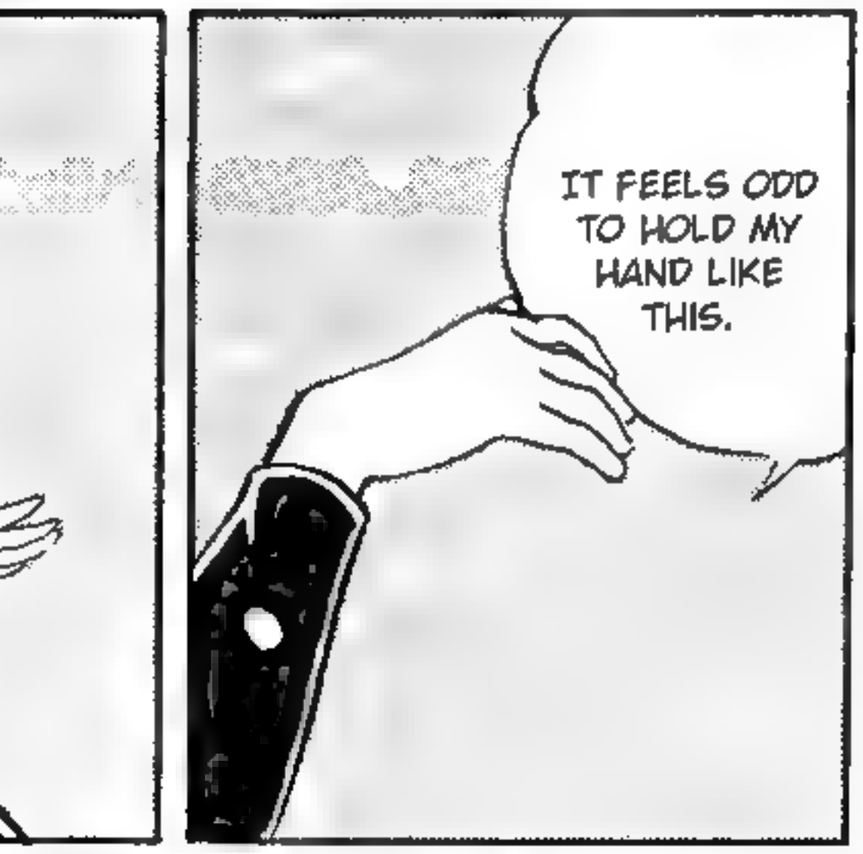
ARGH!

HOMETOWN LONGING

シルビア
紳士服の
亀正
中華料理
藤村ガラス店
OH MY, IT'S SNOWING.

OH MY, IT'S SNOWING.
NO, HOW ABOUT THIS.
OH MY, IT'S SNOWING.
THIS IS MUCH BETTER.
IT FEELS ODD TO HOLD MY HAND LIKE THIS.


JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
易
易


OH MY, IT'S SNOWING.
NO, PERHAPS THIS IS BETTER.

GOODNESS ME, SAKE.

YEAH THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTOMERS AT ALL, FANCY A GLASS?

WELL I'M SUPER BORED.

THAT TASTED WEIRD...

YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD DRINKER.

ゴクゴク

REALLY?

GULP IT DOWN AND YOUR BODY'LL WARM UP IN NO TIME.

ガー

Y... YOU OKAY?

ビク

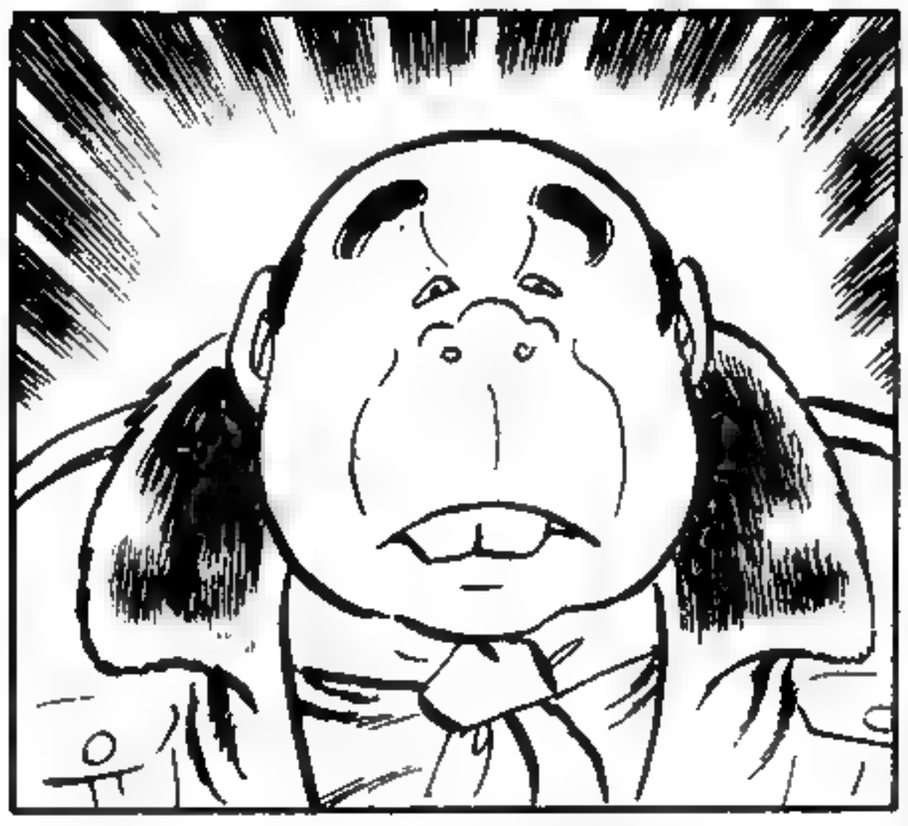
FIRE...

メラメラ

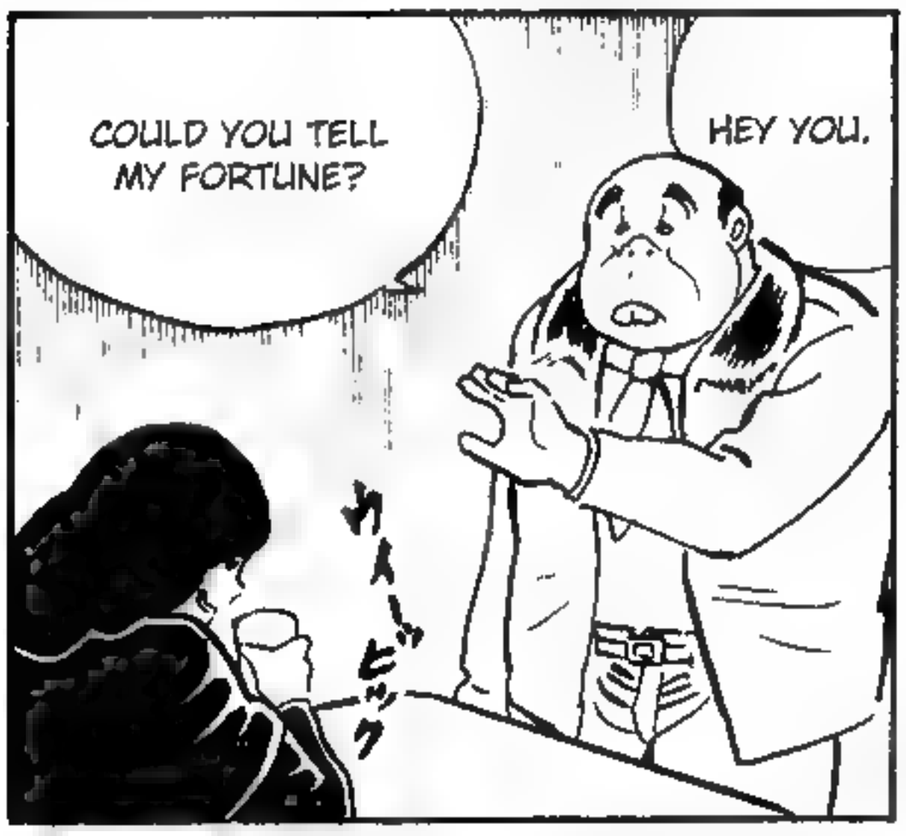
?!

メラメラ

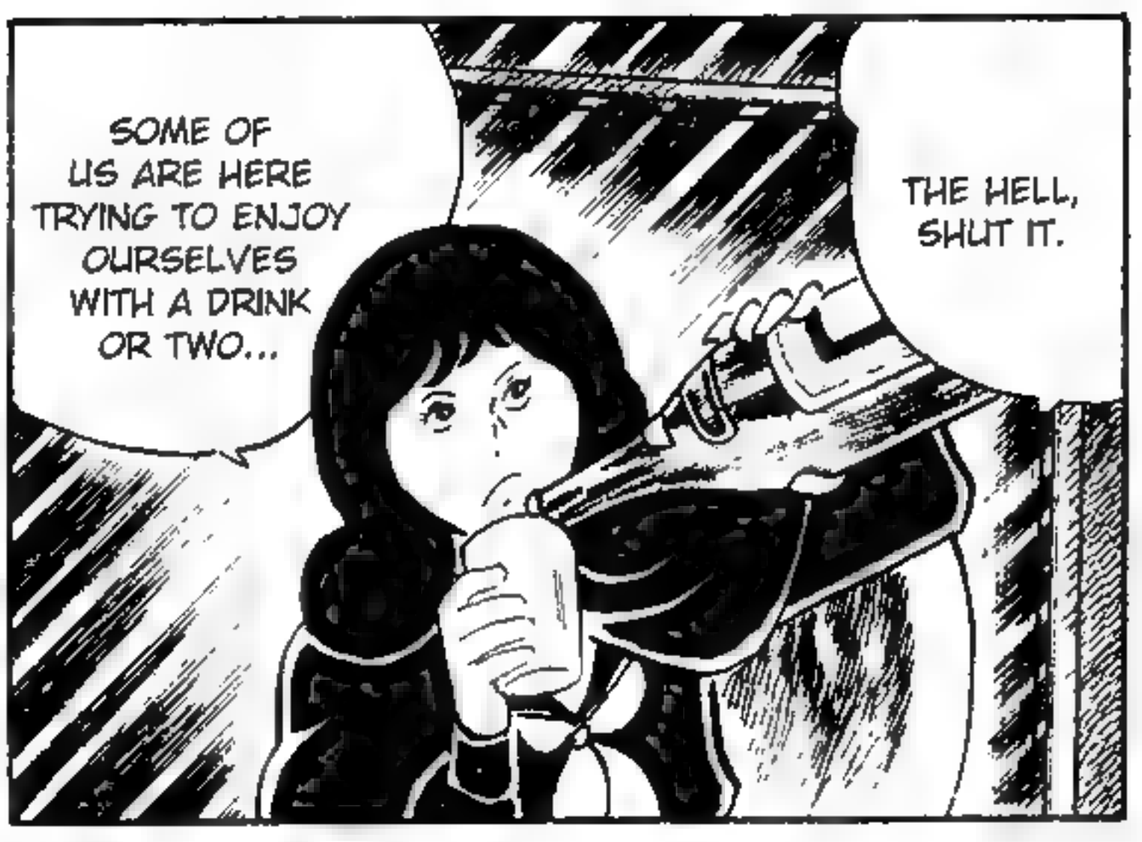
OH MY, I REALLY AM GETTING WARMER.

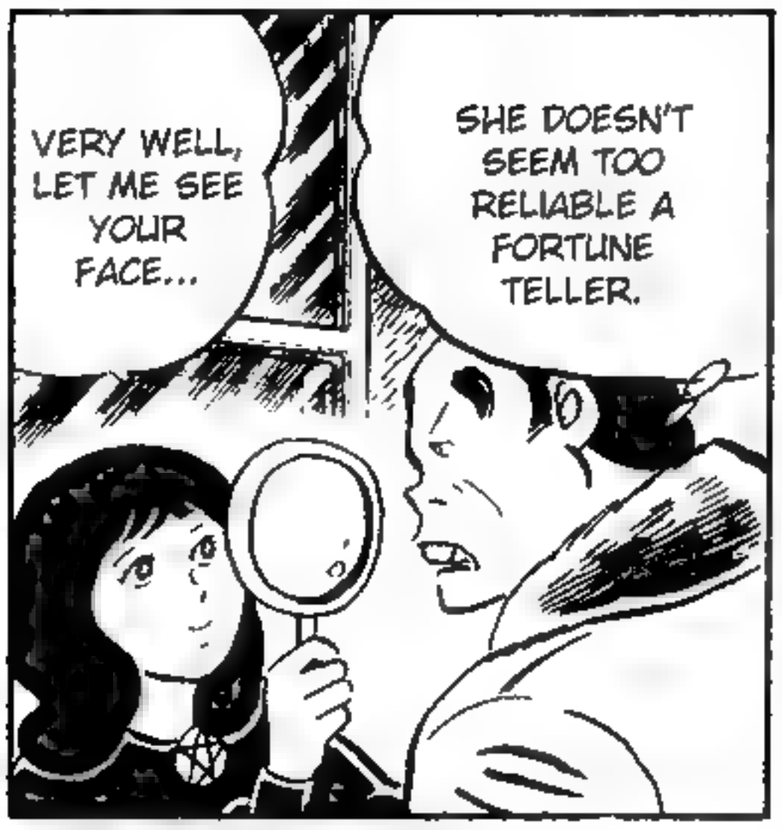


WOAH THERE!
THE CANDLE FELL OVER!


COULD YOU TELL MY FORTUNE?
HEY YOU.
カーード ビッグ

ゴクゴク
カーード


SOME OF US ARE HERE TRYING TO ENJOY OURSELVES WITH A DRINK OR TWO...
THE HELL, SHUT IT.


VERY WELL, LET ME SEE YOUR FACE...
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TOO RELIABLE A FORTUNE TELLER.

OH MY, HOW RUDE OF ME.

EH, A CUSTOMER?
H... HEY. HE'S AN IMPORTANT CUSTOMER.

IF NOTHING ELSE I BET IT DIDN'T LOOK GOOD.

WELL, HOW'S MY FORTUNE?

NO GOOD, I'M SEEING DOUBLE, TRIPLE.

I CAME TO THIS CITY 10 YEARS AGO TO WORK. BUT I'VE NOT BEEN BACK TO MY WIFE AND SON ONCE SINCE THEN.

I THINK I'M GETTING MY JUST DESSERTS.

OH IGNORE ME, YOU'LL SURELY HAVE GOOD FORTUNE SOON.

WH... WHAT?

CORRECT, YOU HAD SIX EYES AND THREE NOSES.

OH MY, 10 YEARS...

BY ALL ACCOUNTS I'VE HAD JUST DAY AFTER DAY OF MISFORTUNE FOR THE LAST 10 OR SO YEARS...

IS THAT TRUE?

I WAS DROWNING IN SAKE.

WHY EVER NOT?

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, IT MIGHT'VE JUST BEEN ME PUTTING ON AN ACT.

WELL, I GUESS IT'S COS I'D BEEN LIVING THE COMFORTABLE, SINGLE LIFE BUT...

秋田銀行

PLUS, I'D FOUND MYSELF UNABLE TO ESCAPE CITY LIFE WITHOUT EVEN REALISING IT.

SO YOU WANT TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

NOT A DAY GOES BY WHEN MY WIFE AND SON'S FACES AREN'T ON MY MIND.

WOULD THEY EVEN LET ME BACK IF I RETURNED AT THIS POINT.

PERHAPS I AM.

BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A BIT SELFISH?

YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT!

YES, YES I DO!

I WAS THINKING OF TAKING THE MONEY AND GOING BACK TO THE COUNTRY.

W... WOAH!

THIS IS THE MONEY I WORKED HARD TO EARN OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.

JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EH?!

BUT WOULD MY WIFE AND CHILD EVEN FORGIVE ME.

YOU BROUGHT A LOT OF MONEY OUT WITHOUT WARNING, I THOUGHT IT WAS MY REWARD.

W... WAIT, PLEASE, SIR.

EVEN IF I GO BACK NOW, I IMAGINE I'LL JUST BE MISERABLE.

YES, I SHOULD GIVE UP ON GOING HOME.

NO, ME SIMPLY BEING AROUND BRINGS GOOD LUCK.

HAHAHA. YOU MEAN YOU'D APOLOGISE TO MY WIFE AND SON...?

EH?

WHAT IF I WERE TO GO WITH YOU.

KYUSHU.

WHERE ABOUTS DO YOU LIVE?

IT WILL?

SO IF I'M WITH YOU, EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FINE.

LET'S GO, LET'S GO RIGHT NOW!

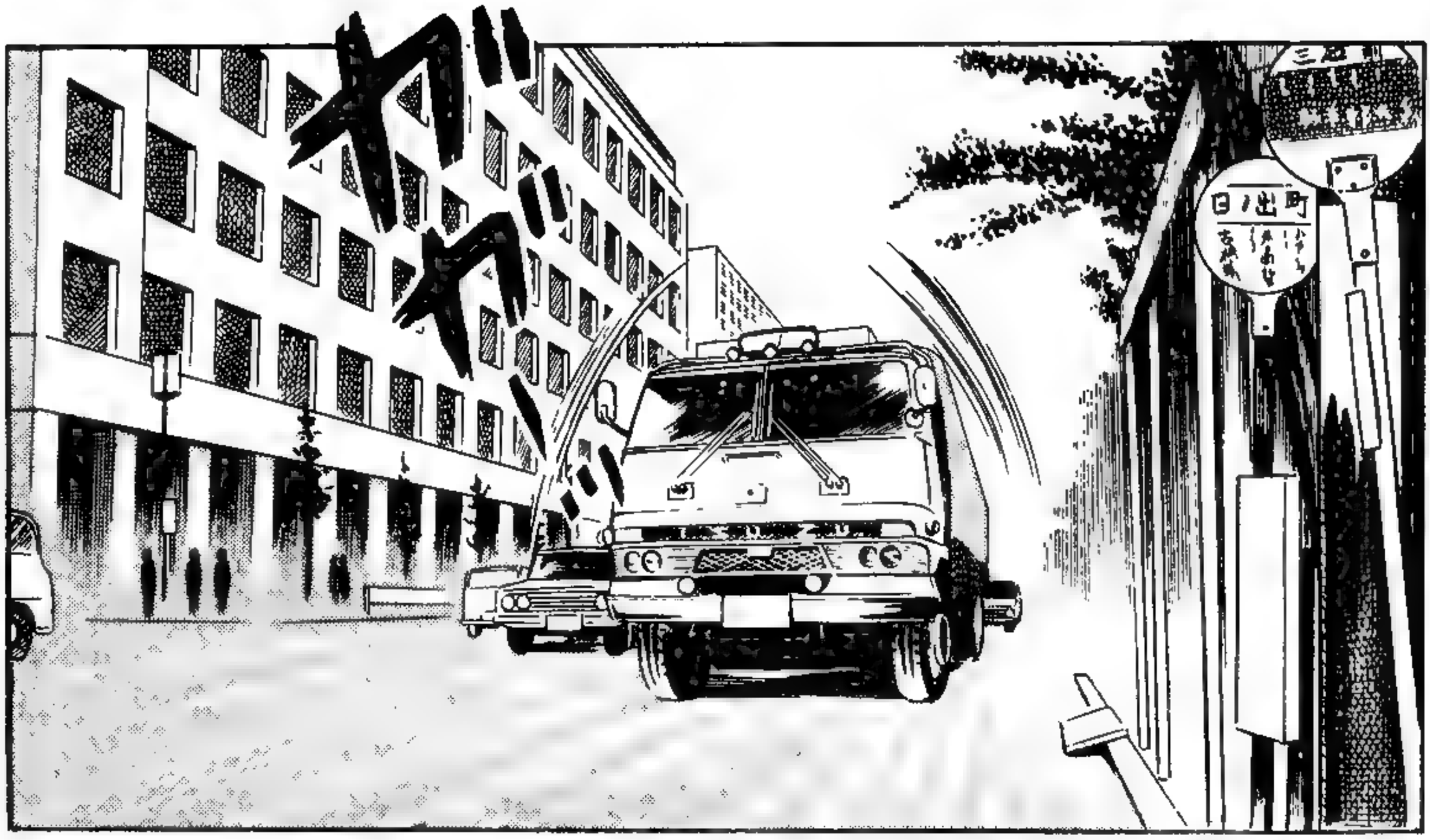
AMAZING! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT.

LET'S TRY THAT BIG TRUCK!

AH.

HITCHHIKE?!

YOU KNOW, IT'D BE FUN TO HITCHHIKE.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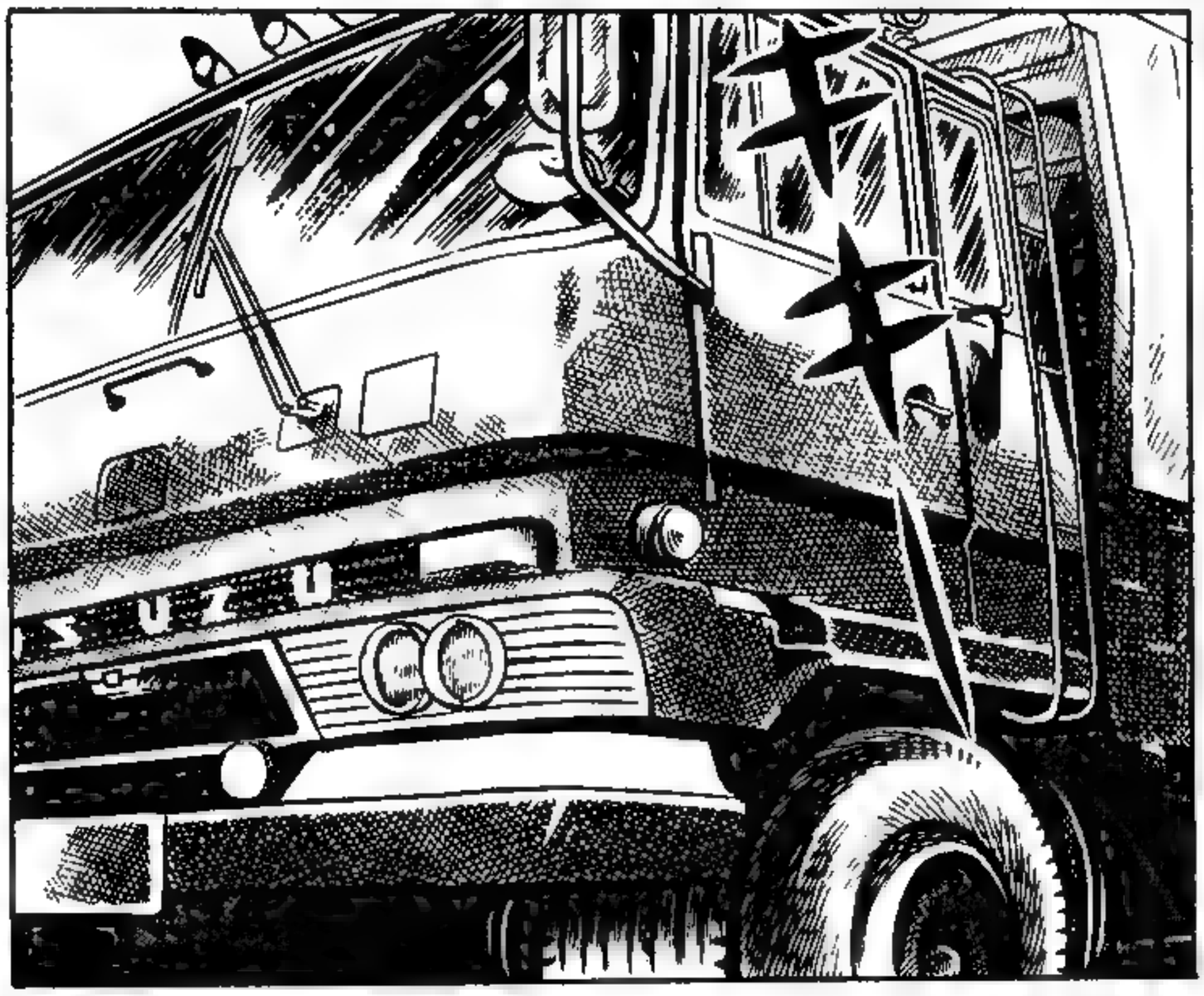
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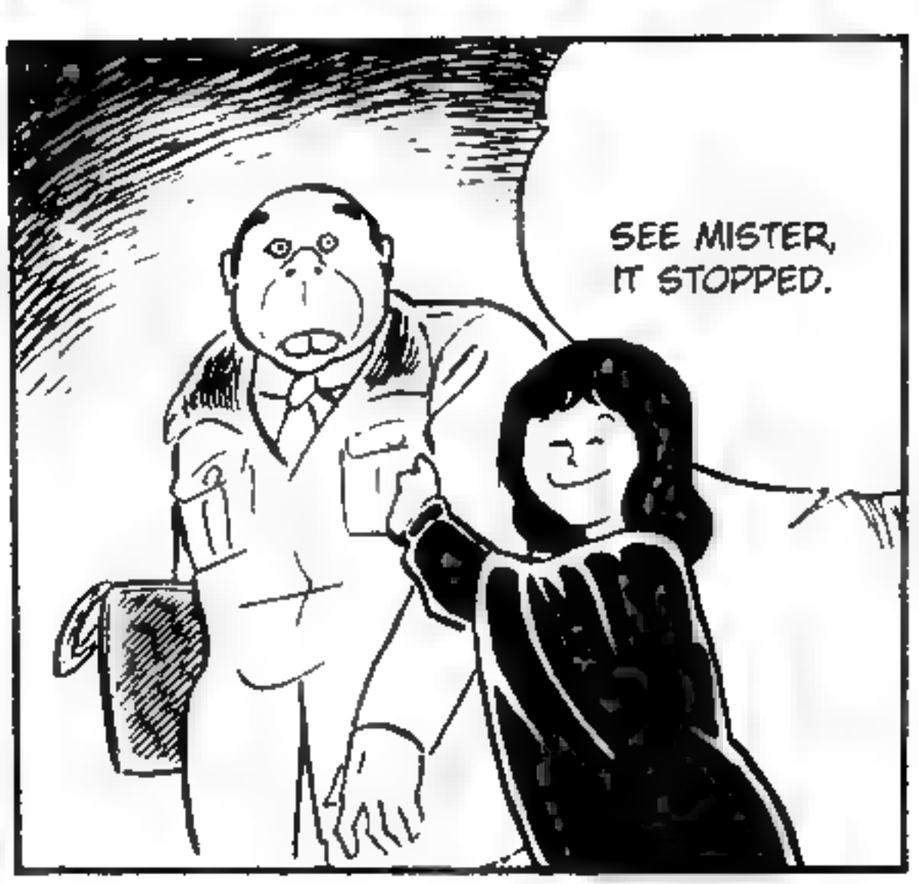
PLEASE STOP!


SEE MISTER, IT STOPPED.

LE... LET'S TRY ANOTHER TRUCK.

THIS IS A LOVELY TRUCK.

OH WELL, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.

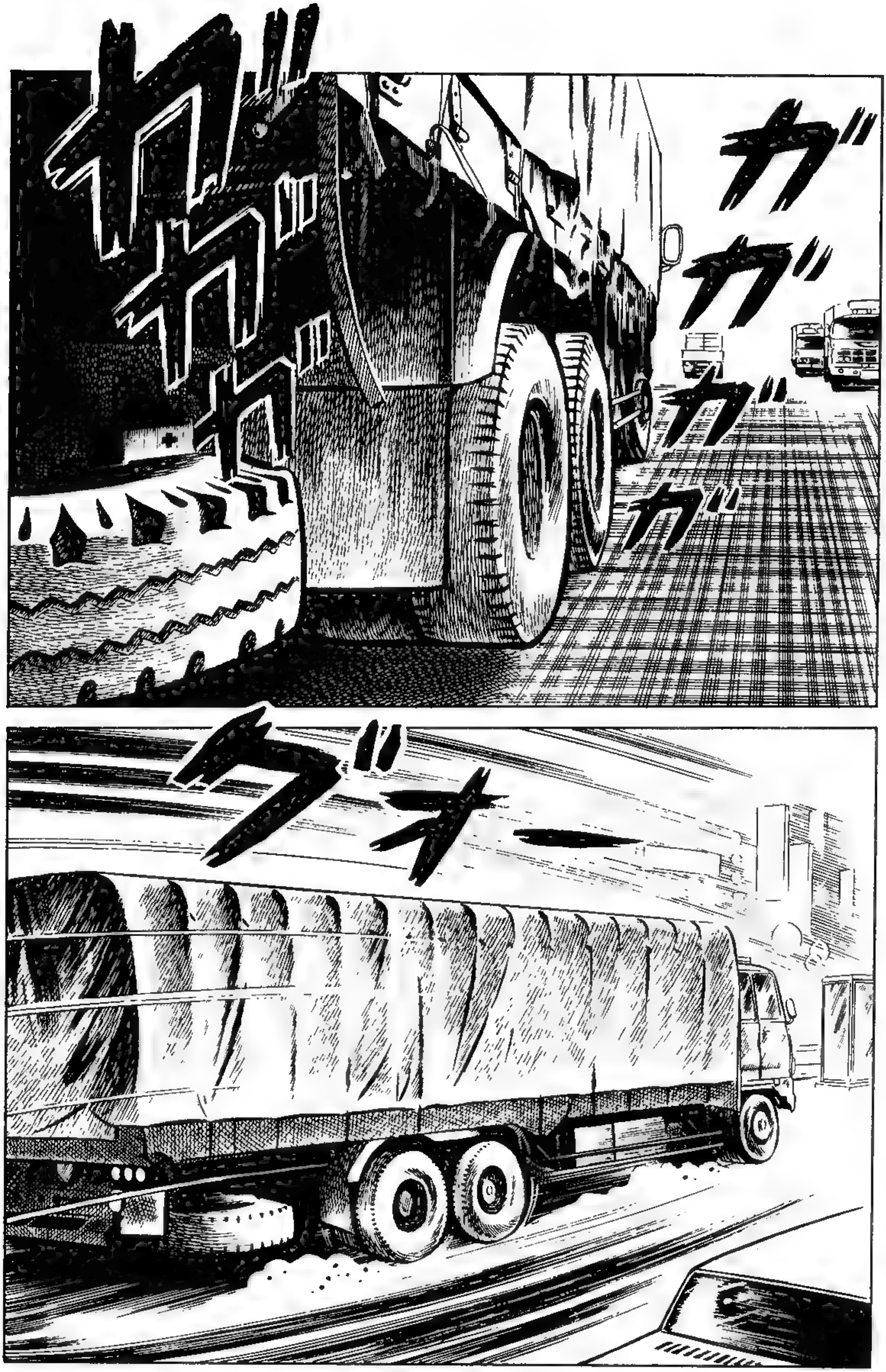
IMMA BUSY GUY!

THE HELL ARE YA GRUMBLING ABOUT?!

THE HELL'S YA PROBLEM. IF YA GONNA GET ON THEN GET ON ALREADY!

I KNEW THIS'D BE NO GOOD.

SO IF YOU'D EXCUSE US.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AND HE LOOKS SCARY FROM BEHIND...

EVEN IN PROFILE HE LOOKS NASTY.

NAH I'M FINE, FINE!

YOU WANT A SMOKE, I COULD LIGHT IT FOR YOU.

ARE YA THICK OR SOMETHING?!

HOW ABOUT FROM ABOVE.

AND THEN...

HE'LL KNOCK OUT THE OLD MAN...

I IMAGINE IF WE STOP IN THE MOUNTAINS...

BY ALL ACCOUNTS HE'S NO NORMAL MAN.

SOMEONE, SAVE ME!

KYAAAAAH!

I... IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

NOOOO, STOOOP!

AAAAARGH!

BY ALL RIGHTS HE SHOULD BE KICKING US OUT ABOUT NOW.

PLUS THE DRIVER'S NOT MAD AT ALL

THIS IS QUITE ODD. THINGS AREN'T NORMALLY LIKE THIS.

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT CRASH THEN?

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT YOU BRINGING LUCK WITH YOU?

AAAAARGH!

WE'RE ENTERING TOMEI!

...

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TAKE THE TOMEI AND MEISHIN EXPRESSWAYS.

E... ERM, HOW ABOUT A CIGARETTE?

HOP

YOUR WIFE AND SON.

THAT'S MINE, I MUST'VE DROPPED IT IN THAT SUDDEN STOP.

A PHOTO.

OH?

I BET WE'LL ALL HAVE CHANGED LOADS.

GRANTED WE'VE NOT MET IN 10 YEARS.

AND MY SON'LL BE GROWN UP.

SHE'LL BE AN OLD WOMAN BY NOW.

THAT'S FROM 10 YEARS AGO.

SHE'S PRETTY.

THE PARKING AREA, OF A REST STOP THAT IS.

HUH, WHERE ARE WE...?

BUT HE'S NOT VERY NICE, DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO ME.

GUESS DRIVER-CHAN'S HUNGRY.

MM.

WE SHOULD GO GET SOMETHING AS WELL.

IT'S IMPORTANT DRIVERS GET FRESH AIR. GUESS THEY'RE THOROUGH WITH THEIR FACILITIES.

HOW LOVELY. YOU CAN EVEN GO FOR A WALK HERE.

OH?

BUT WE'VE CIRCLED THE AREA AND NOT SEEN HIM.

HE PROBABLY JUST BOUGHT SOME LUNCH AND WENT OUT TO EAT IT.

THE DRIVER'S GONE.

WHAT'S UP?

ODD, WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?

タ"ア

THE TRUCK'S GONE!

AH!

EEH?!

AAAAARGH, I'D LEFT THE BAG WITH ALL MY MONEY IN IT!

WH... WHAT IN THE WORLD?!

IT'S WHAT I WAS AFTER FROM THE OUTSET. UFUFUFU.

THAT GEEZER HAD BEEN CLUTCHING HIS BAG DEARLY.

AS I THOUGHT, HE WAS LOADED.

AHAHAHAH!

WHAT WOULD I TELL MY WIFE AND SON.

YOU WANT ME TO GO BACK PENNILESS?

EH?

FOR THE TIME BEING WHY DON'T WE GET ON ANOTHER TRUCK?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?!

OF ALL THE THINGS TO HAPPEN.

S... SORRY.

ALSO, HOW EXACTLY IS ME LOSING ALL THE MONEY I SWEATED MY NUTS OFF FOR GOOD LUCK?!

IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS NEVER WOULDA HAPPENED IF I'D NOT GONE WITH YOU.

IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD FOR YOU TO TREAT IT AS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM, TALK ABOUT IRRESPONSIBLE.

M... MISTER...

UUUUH, WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I GONNA DO...

THIS SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING.

ODD.

UUUUH!

EVEN I'M CRYING NOW.

DON'T CRY.

UUUUH...

THAT'S ENOUGH.

...

IT'S FINE. I'LL TRY APOLOGISING, IT'S ALL I CAN DO.

BUT...

FOR NOW I'LL JUST GO BACK HOME.

AH, RIGHT...

SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO NOW, MISTER?

REALLY, MISTER...

AHAHAHA, I KID.

...

YOU KNOW, LET'S TRY REHEARSE IT ONCE HERE.

I'LL BOW DOWN AND RUB MY HEAD INTO THE GROUND.

I REALLY SHOULD COME WITH YOU, MISTER. I'D LIKE TO APOLOGISE TOO.

AT ANY RATE YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. ULTIMATELY THE ONE AT FAULT WAS ME FOR NOT GOING HOME IN THE FIRST PLACE. HAHAHA.

AND SO THE PAIR'S JOURNEY CONTIN-UED...

MM.

ALRIGHT, HOW'S ABOUT WE HITCHHIKE AGAIN.

WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?!

AT LENGTH THEY MADE IT TO THE OLD MAN'S HOUSE.

HE CAME TO HIS SENSES THREE YEARS AGO AND WAS WORKING AS HARD AS HE COULD.

THAT'S WHY I'M DOWN ON MY KNEES, PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

GET OUT, RIGHT NOW!

I DON'T KNOW ANY MEN AS FILTHY AS YOU!

PLEASE MA'AM, WAIT!

GET OUT, OR I'LL CALL THE POLICE!

AT THIS POINT I DONT WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!

E... ERM, YOU SEE...

EH.

THEN WHERE IS IT, SHOW ME!

HE'D SAVED UP A LOT OF MONEY AND WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO YOU.

YOU SURE ARE STUBBORN.

THE EVIDENCE IS HERE, MUM!

TRUTH IS...

WELL, OUT WITH IT?!

IT... IT CAN'T BE, YOU'RE MY SON, YOSHITAROU?!

TH... THAT'S...?!

GET AWAY WITH WHAT EXACTLY, DID YOU DO SOMETHING?

GUESS I WAS NEVER GONNA GET AWAY WITH IT.

BELIEVE ME, I WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR THAT YOUR'E MY OLD MAN. HAHAHA.

I HEARD IT ALL FROM THE SHADOWS.

YOU LEFT IT?

YES, I LEFT IT WITH HIM.

WELL, SEE THIS BAG...

D... DAD...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, YOSHITAROU.

I FIGURED I'D HAVE IT PREDELIVERED!

Y... YES, I LEFT IT WITH HIM!

...

YEP, IT WAS VERY PLEASANT.

AT ANY RATE, WE GOT A LIFT IN YOSHITAROU'S HUGE TRUCK.

HAHAHA!

AAAARGH!

HOW CRUEL! YOU ALWAYS LEAVE ME IN THE DARK ON THESE THINGS!

EH?

DEARIE ME, SO YOU HAD MET WITH YOUR FATHER IN SECRET!

IF YOU SAY SO.

ｳｰﾑ…

WELL, MUM.

UUUUH...

CALM DOWN MUM, WHAT SAY YOU FORGIVE DAD.

I GUESS THIS IS WHERE THE LUCK WENT?

STILL, THING DID GO SMOOTHLY...

THANK GOODNESS.

エコエコアザラク

THE TWO TRANSFER STUDENTS

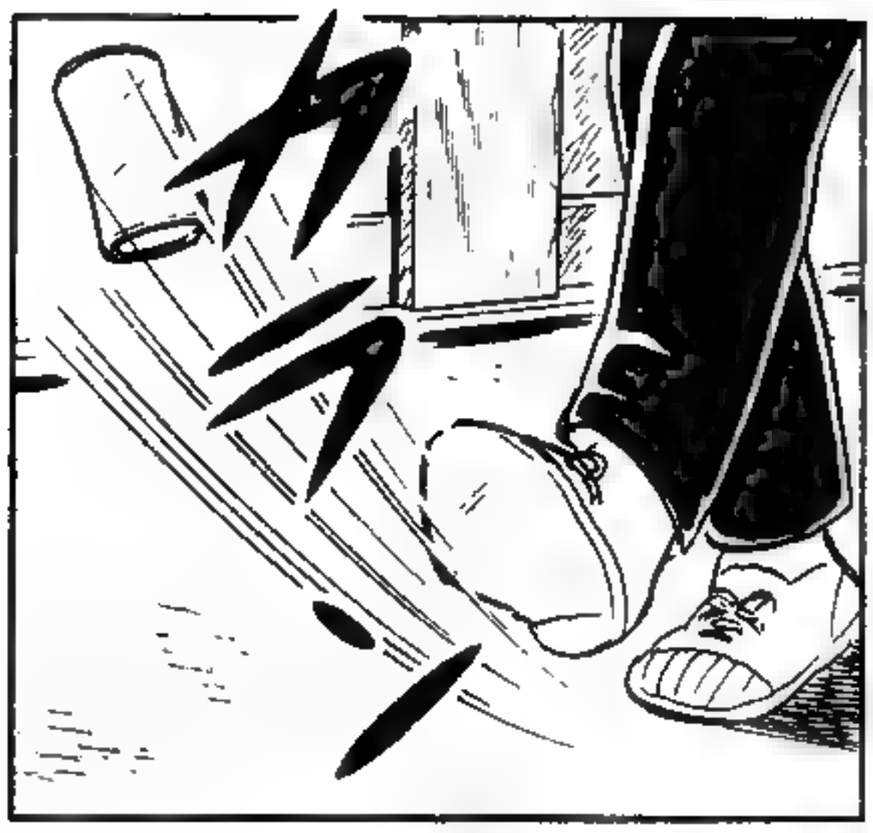
THE CLASS'LL BE FULL OF KIDS I DON'T KNOW.

IT'S REAL TOUGH TO GO IN.

AND IF ANYONE THERE SEES SOMETHING ODDLY INTERESTING, THEY'LL LET OUT A SCORNFUL LAUGH.

THEY'LL LOOK ME OVER FROM THE TOP OF MY HEAD TO THE TIPS OF MY TOES.

AND IN TIME MY HOMEROOM TEACHER WILL MAKE ME STAND AT THE FRONT DESK AND INTRODUCE MYSELF...

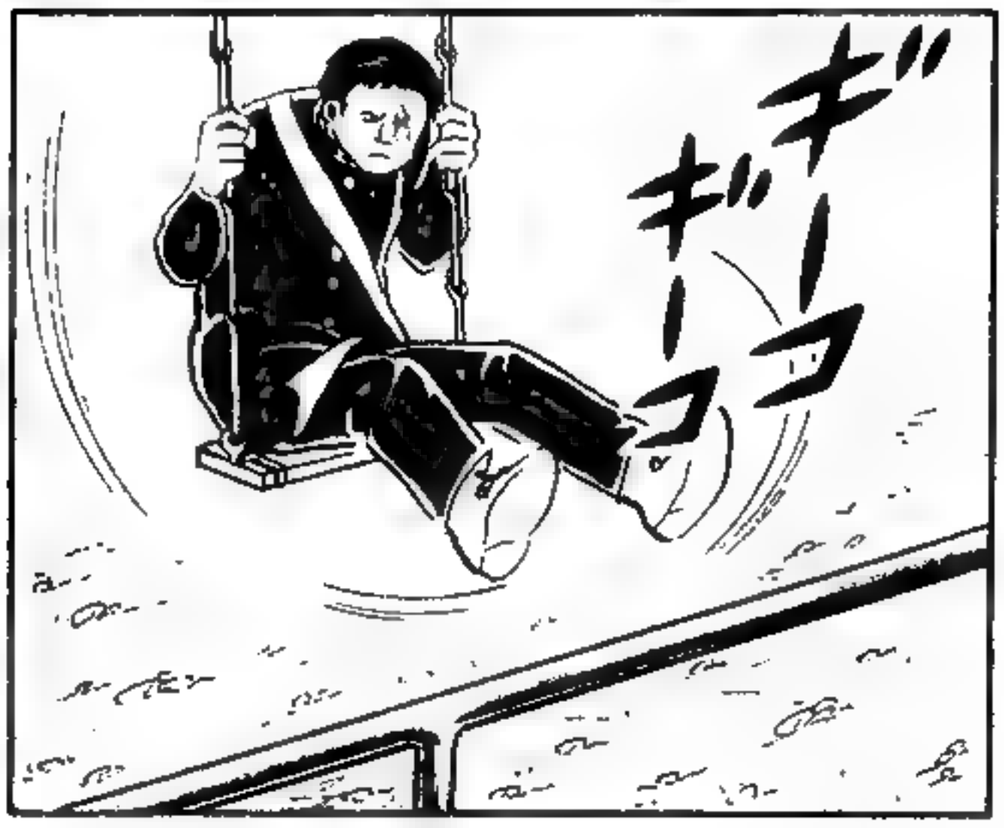


AHAHAHA, PLUS HE HAS THAT DULL, UGLY FACE. HE MUSTA TRANSFERRED HERE FROM DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.
HE'S ONLY GOT A HUGE BODY, I BET HE'S SUPER STUPID.

YOU KNOW WHAT, LET'S FORGET TODAY. I'LL GO TOMORROW.

MM?!

I HATE BEING A TRANSFER STUDFENT.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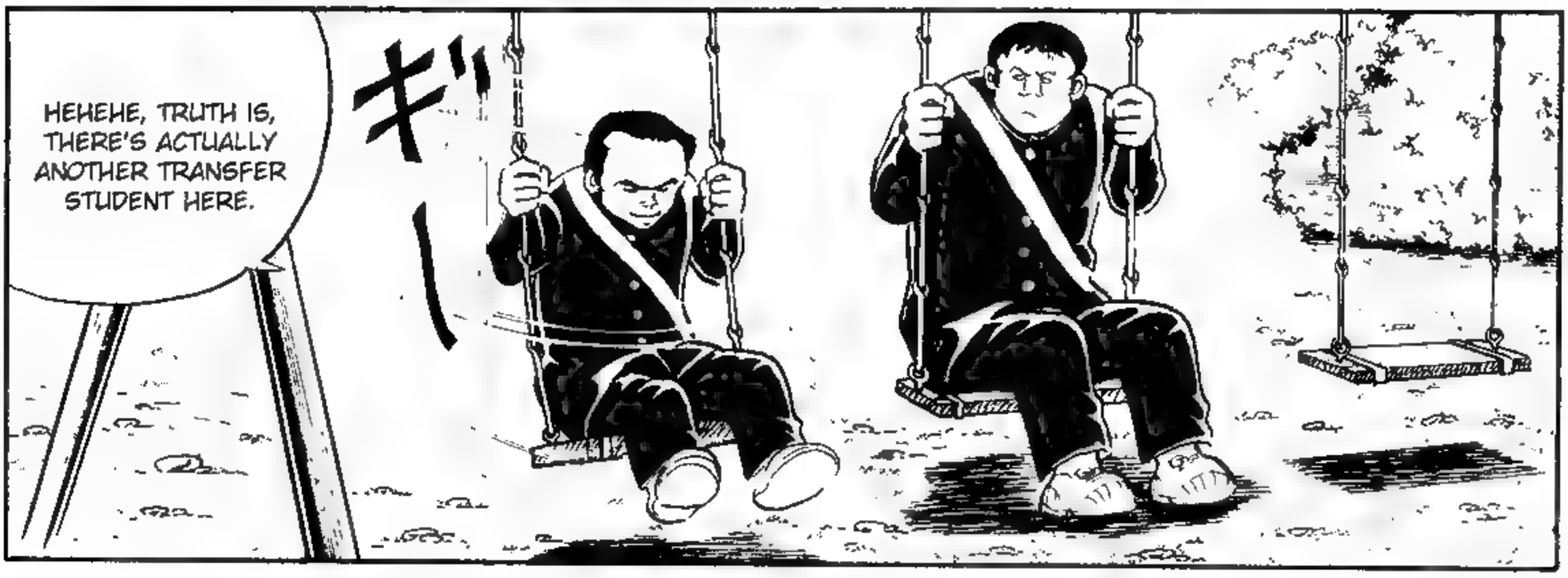
HEHEHE, TRUTH IS, THERE'S ACTUALLY ANOTHER TRANSFER STUDENT HERE.
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THIRD YEAR, CLASS B.

IN THE END I COULDN'T ENTER, AND NOW I'M HERE... FUFUFU, WHAT CLASS ARE YOU?

LIKE YOU, I WAS ALSO GOING BACK AND FORTH AT THE SCHOOL GATES FOR A WHILE.

EH, YOU ARE TOO?

EEH, FOR REAL?!

SO WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS THEN?!

SAME FOR ME. I WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS HERE AS SOON AS I COULD.

I HAD LOADSA PROBLEMS AT MY FIRST SCHOOL AS I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS AT ALL.

MM, A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, I'LL TRY.

THAT MAKES US BIRDS OF A FEATHER, LET'S TRY AND GET ON.

BUT YOU'LL NEED TO TAKE CARE. THIS SCHOOL HAS A WHOLE HOST OF NOTORIOUS DELINQUENTS...

SURE. WITH THE TWO OF US THINGS'LL ALWAYS BE GOOD.

FROM NOW ON LET'S NOT BE LATE AND GO TO SCHOOL.

I... I TRANSFERRED TO ONE TERRIBLE PLACE.

EEH!

FOR NOW JUST TAKE CARE NOT TO BE PUSHED AROUND.

IT'S TOO LATE TO HAVE REGRETS.

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER. FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE IMPORTANT.

BUT HOW, I'VE NO CONFIDENCE AT ALL.

YOU'VE GOT A FINE BODY, JUST ALWAYS TRY TO ACT BIG AND PROUD AND DON'T SHOW A WEAK FACE, EVER.

IS... IS THERE SOME SORTA TRICK YOU COULD TEACH ME?

M... MM...

OK, LET'S GO.

OI, RAISE YOUR HEAD UP MORE. PUFF OUT YOUR CHEST.

NOW THEN EVERYONE. TODAY LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO TWO NEW CLASSMATES.

ALRIGHT, LET'S ALL GET ON NICELY.

KU... KUMAMOTO. A PLEASURE.

I'M CALLED MUTA.

THEY'RE ALL SO CRAZY LOOKING!

EEEEEP!

AH!

MAYBE HE MEANT THIS!

BEATS ME.

THE HELL'S HE MEAN, HOW WE MEANT TO GET ALONG?

AHAHAHAHA!

I LOVE YOUUUU!

HAHAHA!

OHOHOHO...

YOU WERE JUST TOO CUTE SO I FIGURED I'D KISS YOU.

TRUE THAT, LOOK AT ALL THE BLOOD! AHAHA!

GUESS HE BIT HIM ON THE NOSE WITH HIS OVERBITE.

SENSEI, THERE'S SPACE NEXT TO ME.

ANYWAY, YOU CAN SIT...

...

I'VE GOT AN AWFUL FEELING ABOUT THIS.

EVERYONE'S FOCUSED ON ME.

カヤ カヤ

R... RIGHT.

VERY GOOD, KUMAMOTO-KUN YOU CAN TAKE THAT SEAT.

?!

HE MIGHT WELL BE THE BANCHOU AROUND HERE.

THEY'RE ALL FOLLOWING ME.

O... OKAY, TODAY'S SELF STUDY, ENJOY.

R... RIGHT.

THERE AIN'T MANY GOOD DESKS AROUND, SO COME ON, SIT.

GIVE IT A GOOD CLEAN!

AND WHAT ARE YOU LOT HAGING AROUND FOR! THE DESK'S DUSTY AS HELL!

RIGHT!

YOU LOT CELEBRATE TOO!

EH?

I'M OONUMA. AS A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP HAVE A GLASS.

?

AT ONCE, SORRY FOR NOT NOTICING.

RIGHT...

I'M MATSUYAMA. IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, ANYTHING, JUST ASK.

CHEEEEERS!

CHEERS, TO KUMAMOTO-SAN!

HIS SPECIALTY'S BLACKMAIL.
IF YOU NEED MONEY COME SEE ME.

IF SOMEONE'S PISSED YOU OFF COME SEE ME, TEACH WON'T CARE.
HE'S GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTS.

OKAY, LET'S HAVE YOU POUR IT OUT.

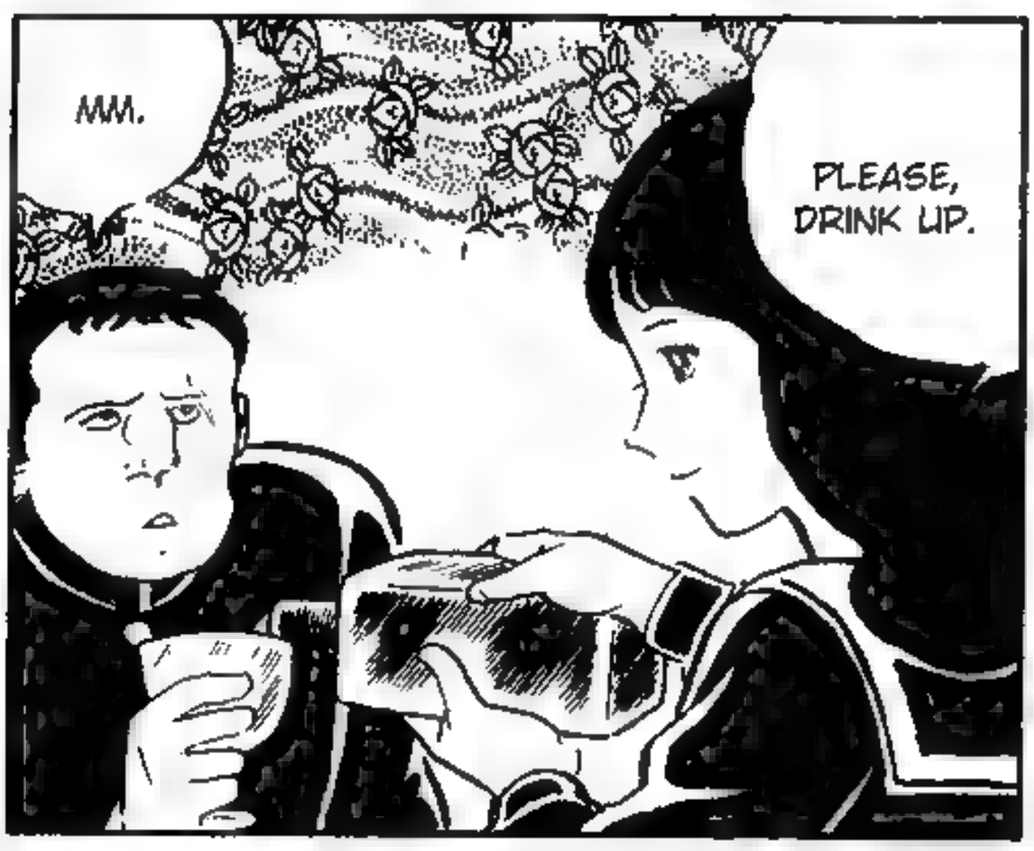
MM, WHO'D BE BEST.
HE DON'T CARE FOR YOU AT ALL, LET'S CALL UP A CUTIE.

IDIOT, THINK HE WANTS TO DRINK WITH A BASTARD LIKE YOU.
NOW, DON'T HOLD BACK.

OF COURSE NOT.
ALRIGHT, NO DUMB MISTAKES.

YES YOU, MISA KUROI!

WHAT IN THE WORLD'S GOING ON?


MM.
PLEASE, DRINK UP.

OH, IT'S HIM.

LATER, DURING BREAK...

WONDER IF HE'D BE MY BOYFRIEND.

ISN'T HE LOVELY. UFUFU.

I'M TAKAHASHI, I'LL BE TEACHING YOU MATHS. IT'S A PLEASURE.

I'M SATOU, YOUR JAPANESE TEACHER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SO POPULAR WITH GIRLS...

ODD. AM I HAVING A DREAM?

EVEN THE TEACHERS ARE TREATING ME SPECIALLY.

NO, THEY'RE NOT.

OR ELSE, ARE THEY MISTAKING ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

I'VE BEEN AT THIS SCHOOL A LONG TIME AND I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LIKE YOU...

EH?!

NO WAY WOULD THEY DO ALL THIS JUST OFF OF APPEARANCE.

PLUS YOU'VE THAT SCAR ON YOUR FOREHEAD...

MAYBE THEY THINK YOU'RE GOOD AT FIGHTING COS YOU'RE SO BIG.

WELL, I'VE NOT A CLUE MYSELF.

SO WHAT IS GOING ON?

A GROUP OF DELINQUENTS ARE PICKING ON THE GIRLS AGAIN.

AAAAAAH!

OH?

USHISHI!

SOMEONE, HEEELP!

NO, GET LOST!

HAH!

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OI, QUIT IT!

HEHEHE, YOU'VE SEEN QUITE SOMETHING.

OH, IF IT ISN'T KUMAMOTO-SAN.

YOU SAVED US.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, KUMAMOTO-SAN.

HEHEHE, IF YOU'D EXCUSE US.

I DIDN'T DO A THING...

N... NOT REALLY.

THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE STUDYING TODAY, JUST ANOTHER BLOODY FIGHT.

EH, AGAIN?

IT'S OONUMA'S GROUP AND THAT LOT FROM D CLASS!

FIGHT! FIGHT!

LET'S SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

EEH, ME?!

COME ON, YOU GOTTA STOP THEM!

SHIIIIT! OI, YOU LOT, USE YOUR KNIVES!

I CAN'T DO THAT!

COME ON, QUICK!

I DON'T HAVE THAT SORTA GUTS!

I CAN'T DO IT!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

YOU DON'T MEAN OONUMA, DO YOU?

WITHOUT THE BANCHOU WHOM I'M ADMIRE THIS REALLY WAS HOPELESS.

SO HE'S EVEN MORE AMAZING THAN OONUMA?

AND HE'S DIGNIFIED.

OF COURSE NOT, HE'S NOT THE SORT WHO WOULD CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR OTHERS.

I... I SHOULD?!

YOU SHOULD KNOW FULL WELL.

JUST WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THEN?!

HE'S ALREADY A FINE BANCHOU. DESPITE BEING FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL HIS REPUTATION'S SUCH EVEN OUR SCHOOL KNOWS OF HIM.

WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

YES, HE'S YOUR GOOD FRIEND, MUTA-KUN!

ON THE SURFACE, YES.

LIKE IT'S ODD. MUTA-KUN JUST TRANSFERRED HERE.

AT THE TIME HE TOOK A STRONG BLOW TO THE HEAD, AND THE POOR THING LOST HIS MEMORIES.

BUT THE TRUTH IS MUTA GOT AN INJURY WHILE TRYING TO STOP A FIGHT A MONTH BACK.

SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS.

THAT'S WHY HIS PARENTS SAW IT AS SOMETHING OF A SILVER LINING. HE FORGOT ALL ABOUT BEING A BANCHOU, SO THEY HAD HIM TRANSFER IN ORDER FOR HIM TO FOCUS ON HIS STUDIES.

CORRECT.

YOU MEAN HE'S GOT NO MEMORY OF HIS PAST AT ALL?

PLUS HE WAS WELL LIKED AND ADMIRED BY ALL THE STUDENTS.

HE MIGHT NOT'VE STUDIED BEING A BANCHOU AND ALL BUT THAT DIDN'T MEAN HE WAS A BAD PERSON.

I WANTED HIM TO BE A BANCHOU.

BUT I OPPOSED THE IDEA.

EH, TO THIS FACTORY?

SO COULD YOU PLEASE BRING HIM HERE TONIGHT, KUMAMOTO-KUN.

I THINK HE'S PITIABLE MYSELF.

I WAS COMPLETELY AGAINST THE IDEA OF JUST WIPING OUT HIS PAST.

SO YOU THINK THIS PLACE MIGHT PROVE A TRIGGER FOR HIM REGAINING HIS MEMORIES.

IT WAS HERE AT THIS FACTORY HE WAS INJURED TRYING TO MEDIATE THE FIGHT.

YES...

I'LL ALSO BE USING MY MAGIC...

EKO EKO ZAMERAK!

EKO EKO AZARAK!

VERY WELL, I SHALL USE MY MAGIC TO REPRODUCE THE INCIDENT FROM A MONTH AGO WHICH INJURED YOU.

AAAAARGH, A BULLDOZER STARTED MOVING ON ITS OWN!

ガガガガ

WH... WHAT DO I DO?!

AH!

WHEN HE CAME TO MEDIATE THE FIGHT, ONE OF THE OTHERS STARTED UP A BULLDOZER AND ATTACKED HIM WITH IT.

IT'S AFTER ME!

S... SAVE ME, KUROI-KUN!

W... WAIT!

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YOU HELPED OUT, SO I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS.

KUROI-SAN, WHAT'S GOING ON...

HE FAINTED...

THEN HE WAS THE FAMOUS BANCHOU?!

THE TRUTH IS KUMAMOTO-KUN WAS THE ONE WHO LOST HIS MEMORIES AND FORGOT HIS PAST.

I WANTED TO TRY AND HAVE HIM RECALL HIS PAST BY TALKING ABOUT BEING A BANCHOU.

YES, KUMAMOTO-KUN WAS.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY OONUMA'S GROUP WAS SO AFRAID OF HIM, AND EVERYONE ELSE TREATED HIM DIFFERENTLY.

SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS.

ME LYING ABOUT YOU, A NORMAL TRANSFER STUDENT, BEING A BANCHOU WAS PART OF MY APPROACH.

THEN IT WAS HERE THAT I GOT THIS FOREHEAD WOUND.

HAH!

UFUFU, SO THAT'S IT...

KUMAMOTO-KUN, DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOUR MEMORIES ARE...!

UFUFUFU, THEY'RE FULLY BACK.

I'M GLAD FOR YOU.

I REALLY AM GRATEFUL, KUROI-SAN.

BUT THANKS TO YOU, THE SUN IN MY HEART SHONE AND I REMEMBERED.

I COULDN'T STAND SPENDING EVERY DAY UNEASY.

BEST OF LUCK, FROM TOMORROW SCHOOL WILL BE ALL THE BRIGHTER.

I WON'T LET OONUMA'S LOT DO WHAT THEY LIKE!

ALRIGHT THEN, FROM TOMORROW IT'S THE RETURN OF THE BANCHOU!

♣アザラク
♣エロHUH

THE GRADUATION CEREMONY REPRISAL

HIS VOICE IS AS LOUD AS EVER.

MY EARDRUM'S BURST.

HELLO!

HELLO THERE, OOKURA-SENSEI.

HM?!

R... RUN FOR IT!

GIIIEH, IT'S OOKURA-SENSEI!

YOU TWOOOO!

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU TWO?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING SMOKING OVER THEEEERE?!

TODAY'S THE DAY I SMACK THAT HABIT OUT OF YOU!

MODERATE YOUR VIOLENCE...!

PLEASE, OOKURA-SENSEI.

EH?!

SENSEI, YOU MUSTN'T!

ARE YOU THE PRINCIPAL, OR A PTA SPY?

SENSEI YOU CAN'T GET WORKED UP, CALM DOWN A BIT.

HOW CAN I. THOSE TWO ARE GETTING ARROGANT, THE LITTLE TROUBLEMAKERS NEED TO BE DEALT WITH STRICTLY!

MODERATE IT YOU SAY?

IT'S EARLY IN THE MORNING, DON'T GIVE ME ANY WEIRD LOOKS!

I'M JUST VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SENSEI.

NO WAY, OF COURSE NOT.

YEAH, IT'S NO GOOD HERE.

SSSH!

WH... WHAT WAS THAT?!

GIMME YOUR EAR A SEC...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT.

I SAID TO BE QUIET...

THE STUDENTS ARE PLANNING TO BEAT ME UP AFTER THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?!

H... HOLD ON NOW. DO THEY REALLY HATE ME THAT MUCH?

THINGS WILL BE EVEN WORSE IF YOU KEEP ADDING TO THE STUDENTS' BAD FEELINGS.

AND THAT'S WHY YOU STOPPED ME JUST NOW.

AT ANY RATE, THE CEREMONY'S SOON SO I'VE BEEN VERY WORRIED...

THERE'S NO WAY?!

TH... THAT MANY?!

THEY DO. AND FROM CLASS A TO F IN THIRD YEAR THERE'S A GOOD 100 OR SO TOTAL WHO HAVE IT OUT FOR YOU...

IS THAT WHY THEY'RE SO RESENTFUL?!

DO THEY JUST THINK MY TEACHING IS TOO STRICT!

SORRY, SOMETHING CAME OVER ME.

IT'S FINE, DON'T WORRY.

R... RIGHT. YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO WARN ME, WEREN'T YOU.

S... SENSEI, WHAT'RE YOU DOING...

T/N: THE SIGN READS "STAFF ROOM".

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO DOWN BEFORE.

SOMETHING WRONG WITH OOKURA-SENSEI?

職員室

YES, IT WAS ABOUT A YEAR BACK...

THINKING ABOUT IT, MAYBE I HAVE BEEN IGNORING THE STUDENTS' FEELINGS.

THINKING BACK NOW, THEY WERE SIMILAR TO ME DURING MY CHILDHOOD.

I WAS IN CHARGE OF CLASS C IN THIRD YEAR. THERE, A SECTION OF THE CLASS WOULD REALLY ANNOY ME WITH THEIR WILD BEHAVIOUR.

I WAS OUT OF CONTROL. BUT IT WAS THEN I TOOK THE OLD MAN'S WHIP OF LOVE.

I HAD THE TATTOOS AND ALL. I'D GET VIOLENT AT SCHOOL AND NEVER BE PUNISHED FOR IT.

WHILE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL I'D BEEN AN ACTUAL DELINQUENT TOO...

IF YOU'RE A MAN PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

YOUR MIND IS UN-HEALTHY!

NOW, GET UP!

IF YOU'RE HEALTHY IN MIND YOU'LL NEVER GO ASTRAY IN CHARACTER!

WHAT ARE YOU NODDING OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS FOR?!

IT'S OBVIOUS IT WOULD HAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON ME.

IT WAS HIS SPARTAN TRAINING THAT HELPED ME GROW SO RESOLUTE...

OKAY, I'LL LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

WH... WHAT WAS THAT?!

FORGET IT, HOW ABOUT YOU GO GET SWEATY.

GIVE ME 10 LAPS!

EEEEEP, A... A TATTOO!

COME ON, FOLLOW ME!

R... RIGHT, I'M COMING, I'M COMING.

WHAT ARE YOU DAWDLING FOR?!

FROM THAT DAY ON THEY FOLLOWED MY STRICT TEACHING.

WE'VE ANOTHER 10 MORE!

IT... IT'S BEEN 10 LAPS ALREADY, SENSEI.

AND YET, THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN SO AGAINST THEM...

FOR THE PAST YEAR I'D BEEN PROUD AND CONVINCED OF THE TEACHING METHODS I'D INHERITED FROM THE OLD MAN.

NATURALLY IN THOSE CLASSES THAT I TAUGHT, JAPANESE AND SOCIAL STUDIES, THERE WERE SUDDEN IMPROVEMENTS IN GRADES.

YOU WERE SCARING ME.

WHAT IS IT, KUROI-KUN.

SENSEI!

I'M A TOTAL FAILURE AS A TEACHER.

OH BUT THEY WOULD!

LIKE THEY'D ACTUALLY GET VIOLENT.

AHAHAHA, LET'S NOT BE SILLY.

PLEASE SENSEI, JUST DON'T GO TO THE CEREMONY!

SHOULD I SIMPLY ACCEPT MY PUNISHMENT?

YOU COULD EVEN BE KILLED BY THEM!

PLEASE LOOK INTO MY CRYSTAL BALL...

IT'S TRUE. AS THE GRADUATION CEREMONY DRAWS NEAR, THEIR WRATH TOWARDS YOU WILL ONLY GROW.

YOU SHOULD QUIT WITH THE BAD JOKES.

EH?!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY ALWAYS ACTED SO UPFRONT AND CHEERY INFRONT OF ME.

ME NEITHER. I NEED TO PAY HIM BACK FOR ALL THE MISERABLE TIMES I'VE HAD.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.

WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIM AS BEST WE CAN, FOR OUR KOUHAIS AT THE SCHOOL!

PLUS, IF THAT YAZUKA OF A TEACHER'S LEFT ALONE HE'LL ONLY GET WORSE!

FOR THE LAST YEAR WE'VE SUFFERED IN SILENCE, WE'LL PAY BACK ALL OUR GRUDGES AND HATRED IN ONE GO.

WE'LL LYNCH HIM!

LET'S HAVE A FESTIVAL OF BLOOD!

YEAH, YEAH!

...

WHEN PEOPLE GATHER IN LARGE GROUPS MOB PSYCHOLOGY WILL KICK IN AND WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

WH... WHAT IN THE WORLD.

EVEN IF YOU DIE?

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SKIP THE ALL IMPORTANT GRADUATION CEREMONY.

AAAH, WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!

YOU SHOULDN'T FRIGHTEN PEOPLE SO MUCH, KUROI-KUN!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

IN SHORT, I'LL TRANSFORM YOU.

BL... BLACK MAGIC?!

THERE IS ONE WAY FOR YOU TO ESCAPE, I USE MY BLACK MAGIC.

THE GYM, GOT IT.

SO BEFORE YOU GO PAY A QUICK VISIT TO THE GYM.

THEY'LL BE LOOKING TO AMBUSH YOU AS YOU'RE GOING BACK FROM THE CEREMONY.

AND SO, SEVERAL DAYS LATER, THE GRADUATION CEREMONY CAME...

I SHALL HEREBY BEGIN THE BLACK MAGIC DANCE.

DANCE...?

THAT EVENING...

VERY WELL, PLEASE WATCH CAREFULLY AND DANCE WITH ME.

IT'S A FORM OF BLACK MAGIC USED BY WITCHES FROM A FAR ANCIENT LAND.

IN SHORT, IT'S A TECHNIQUE WHEREIN YOU CALL FORTH DEMONS WHILE DANCING.

Y... YOU WANT ME TO DANCE AS WELL?

LIKE THIS?

YOUR BODY NEEDS TO BE MORE LITHE.

RAISE YOUR FOOT MORE.

WHAT AN ODD DANCE.

HUH, THIS IS KINDA LIKE BALLET.

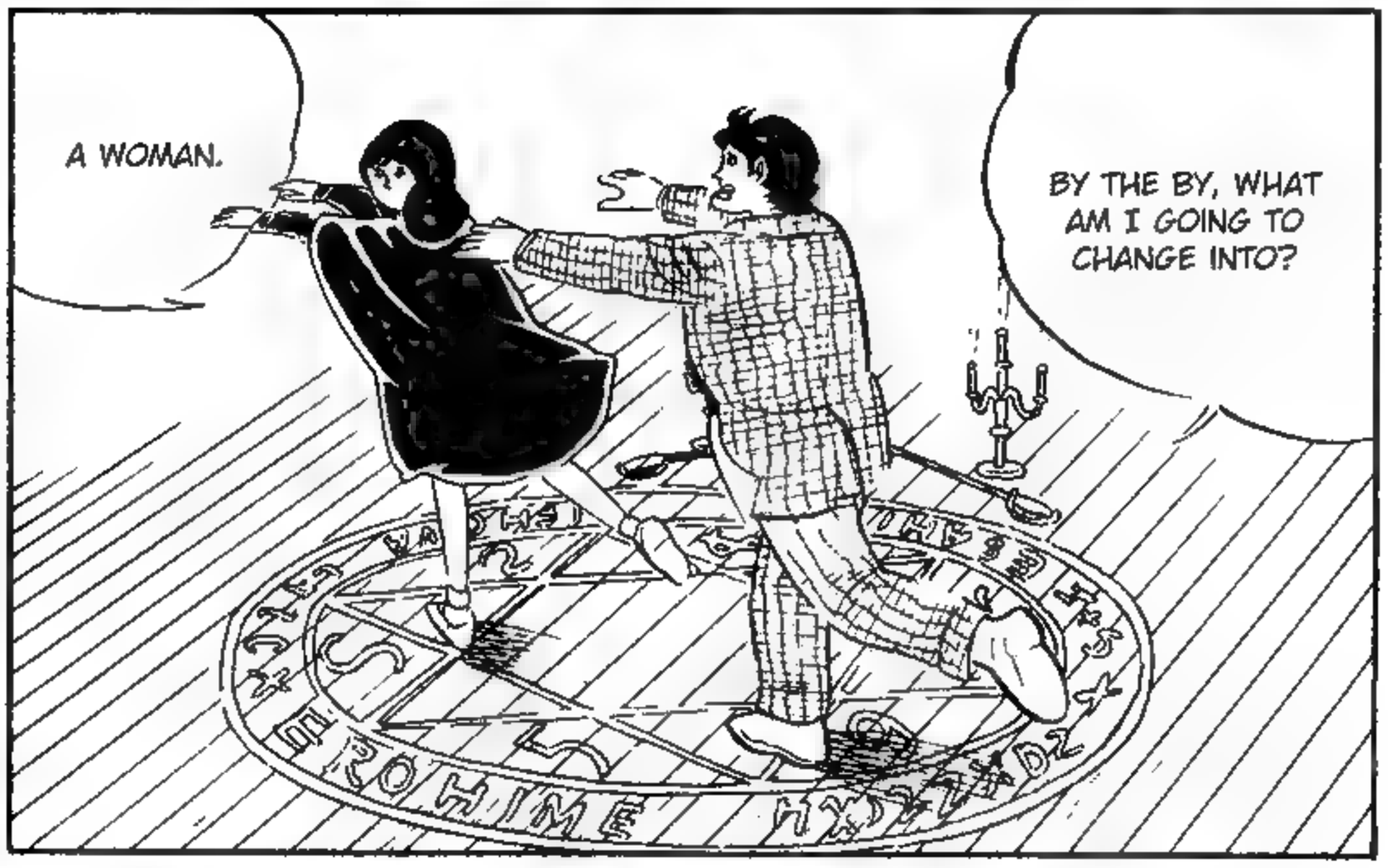
BUT YOU'VE NO CHOICE, THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL?!

BUT I'M A TEACHER, I HAVE TO DO THIS.

...

NOW, PLEASE CONTINUE THE DANCE, SENSEI.
SHIT, WHY ME!

H... HUH?!


A WOMAN.
BY THE BY, WHAT AM I GOING TO CHANGE INTO?

A... A WOMAN?!

WEIRD, THIS IS THE PATH HE TAKES.

THAT OOKURA'S AWFULLY LATE COMING BACK.

HM?

AH!

SHE'S BLOODY HUGE.

WHO'S THAT WOMAN.

GOODNESS ME!

OHOHOHO.

THE WIND SURE CAN PLAY SOME NASTY TRICKS.

?!

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IF YOU'D EXCUSE ME. AHEM.

SOME DRUNK FELL IN THE RIVER.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE RIVER'S FAST FLOWING AND THE WATER'S FREEZING. THERE'S NO HOPE.

WE CALLED THE POLICE RIGHT AWAY BUT, WELL...

CAN'T YOU SAVE THEM?

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF MEN?!

UNLUCKY GUY.

HAAH?

A HUMAN'S LIFE IS ON THE LINE!

WE CAN'T EVEN SEE HIM ANYMORE, NO WAY CAN HE BE SAVED.

D... DON'T BE CRAZY!

IF YOU CAN'T SEE HIM THEN YOU NEED TO JUMP IN THE RIVER!

OI, DON'T YOU THINK THEY RESEMBLE OOKURA.

OI, THEY SEEM KINDA ODD.

IT... IT IS OOKURA!

AAAAAH!

YOU LOT ARE LIKE A LOUSY BUNCH OF WOMEN.

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十

OI, SEEMS THEY FOUND HIM.

LOOK, HE'S BREATHING AGAIN.

...

GIVE HIM MOUTH TO MOUTH AND HE SHOULD MAKE IT.

AH...

HAH...

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WE'LL.

SEEMS WE GOT THE WRONG PERSON.

MM...

OI, LET'S GET HOME YOU LOT.

C... CRAP...

YOU KNOW I'M STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND A GIRL.

LET'S GO FOR A DRINK, KUROI-SAN.

GUESS YOU DIDN'T NEED THE TRANSFORMATION, SENSEI.

...

UFUFU.

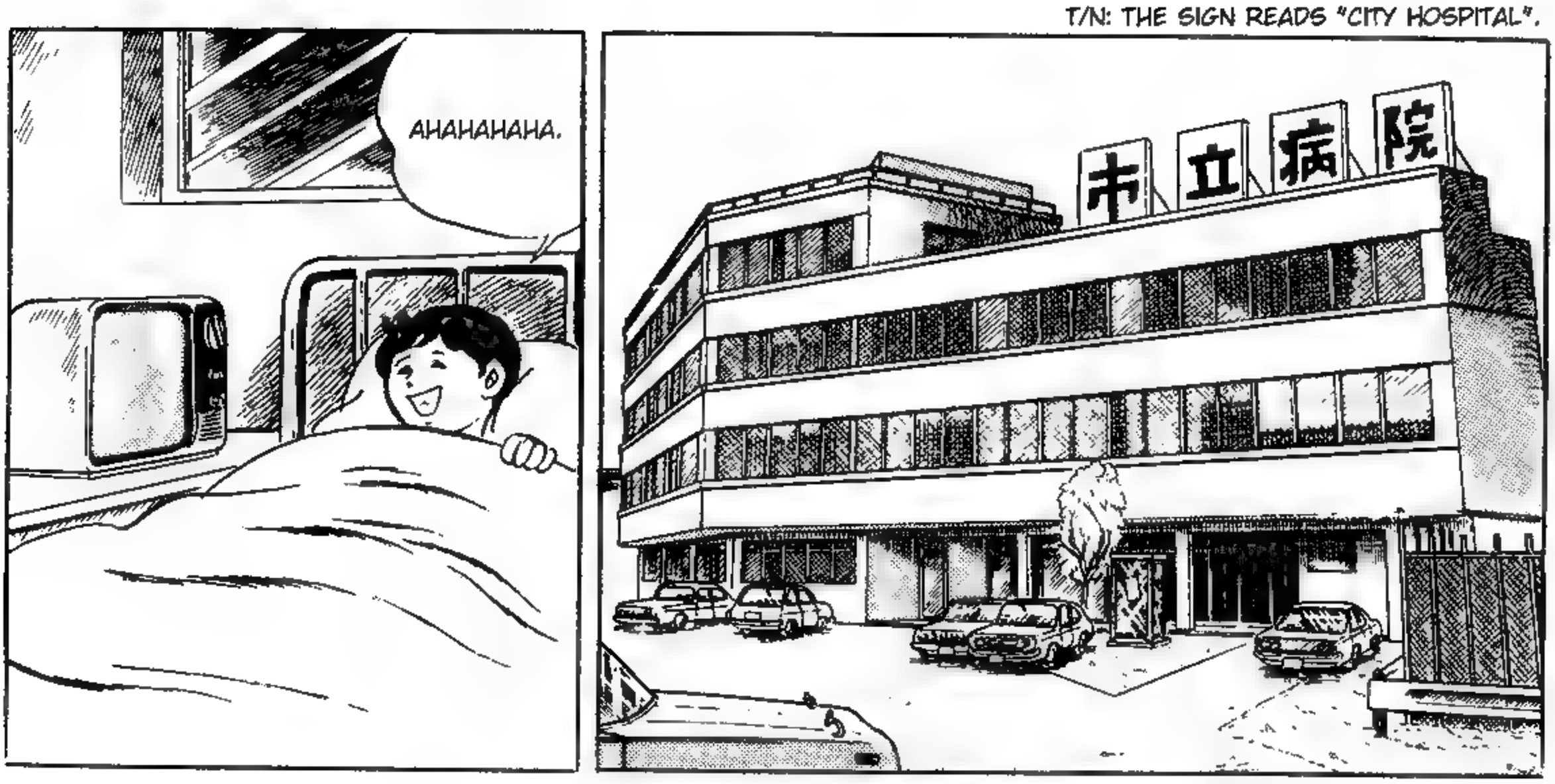
AHAHAHA.

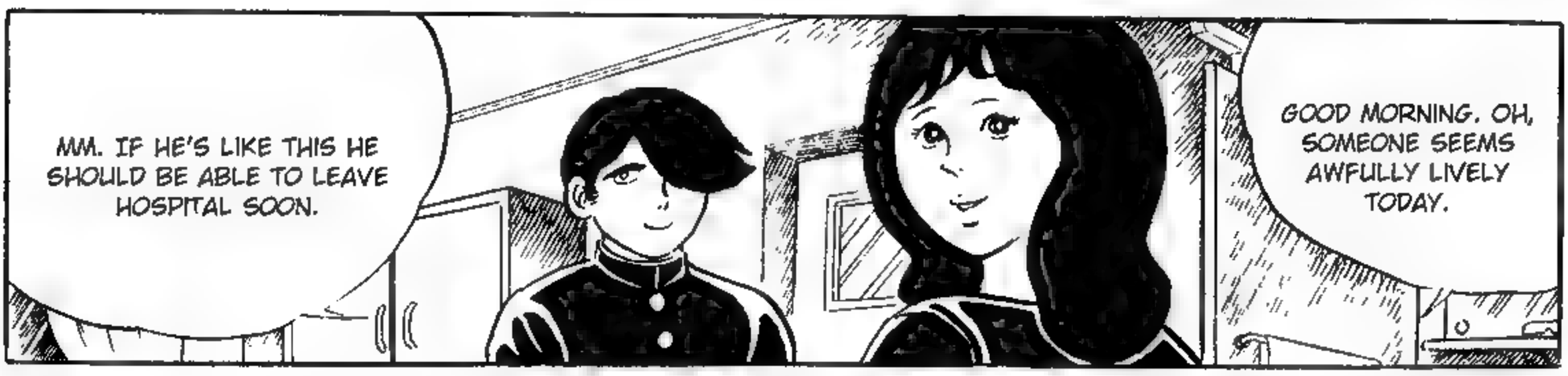
I SUPPOSE I JUST FELT IT'D BE A SHAME TO DRINK ALONE TONIGHT.

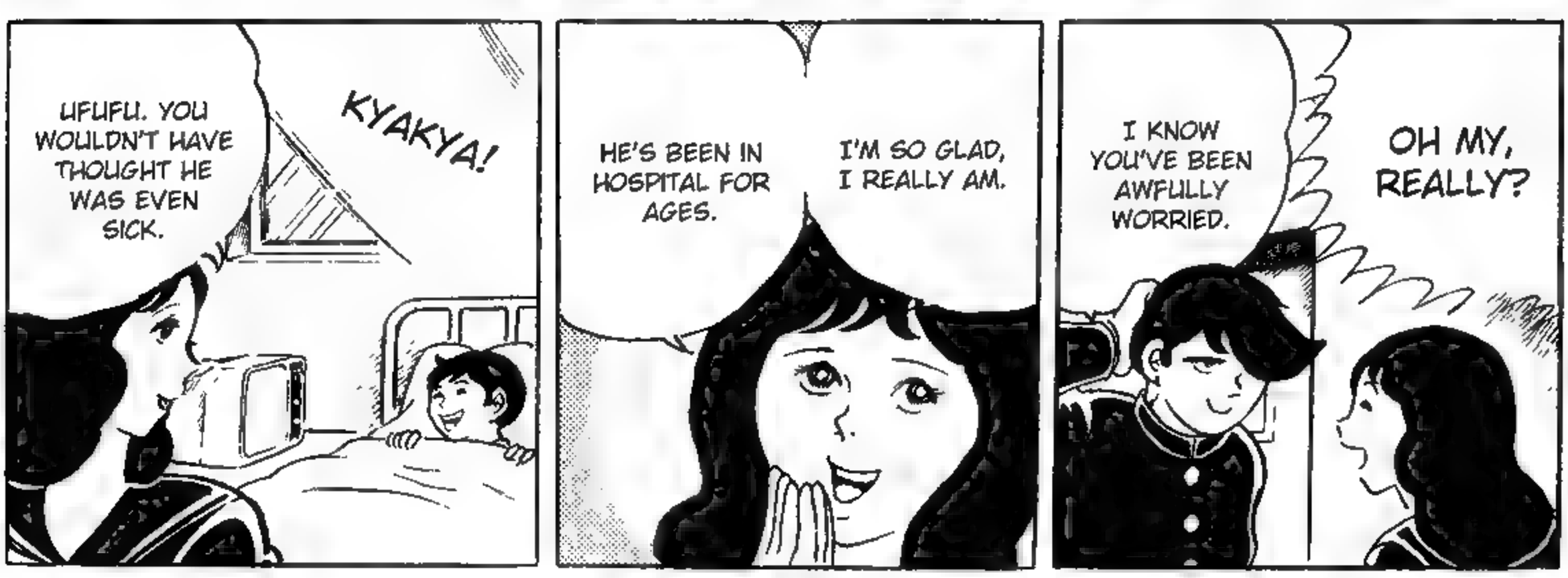
OH THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH...

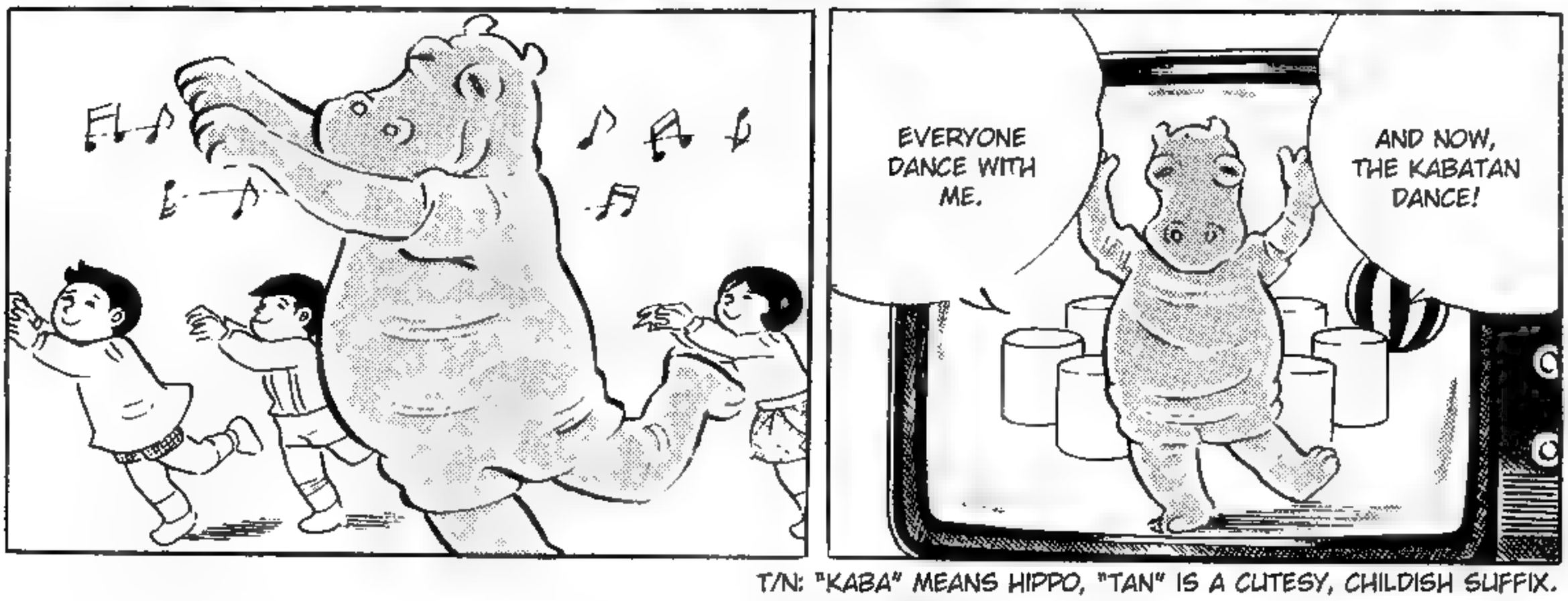
UNCLE KABATAN

T/N: THE SIGN READS "CITY HOSPITAL".






UFUFU. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT HE WAS EVEN SICK.
KYAKYA!
HE'S BEEN IN HOSPITAL FOR AGES.
I'M SO GLAD, I REALLY AM.
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY WORRIED.
OH MY, REALLY?



T/N: "KABA" MEANS HIPPO, "TAN" IS A CUTESY, CHILDISH SUFFIX.

I AM SORRY YOU KNOW, TOSHI-BOU.

HEY, YOU MIGHT BE EXAGGERATING A BIT.

YEAH, YOUR HOUSE IS LIKE A BIG HOTEL.

SURE. I'LL THROW A HUGE PARTY AT MY HOUSE.

WE SHOULD GO CELEBRATE ONCE MY BROTHER'S OUT, KUROI-SAN.

KYA! KYA!

OI, YOU!

FORGET IT. OUR HOUSE IS ALL RUN DOWN, I WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO SEE IT.

I THINK I'LL SKIP AGAIN TODAY. HE'LL BE LONELY IF I'M NOT HERE.

IT'S ALREADY EIGHT MOTOYAMA-KUN, WE SHOULD GET TO SCHOOL.

S... SORRY.

HE STILL NEEDS PEACE AND QUIET, UNLESS YOU WANT HIM TO RELAPSE.

GOODNESS, THIS IS A HOSPITAL, WHATEVER'S GOING ON?!

BYE BYE.

WILL DO.

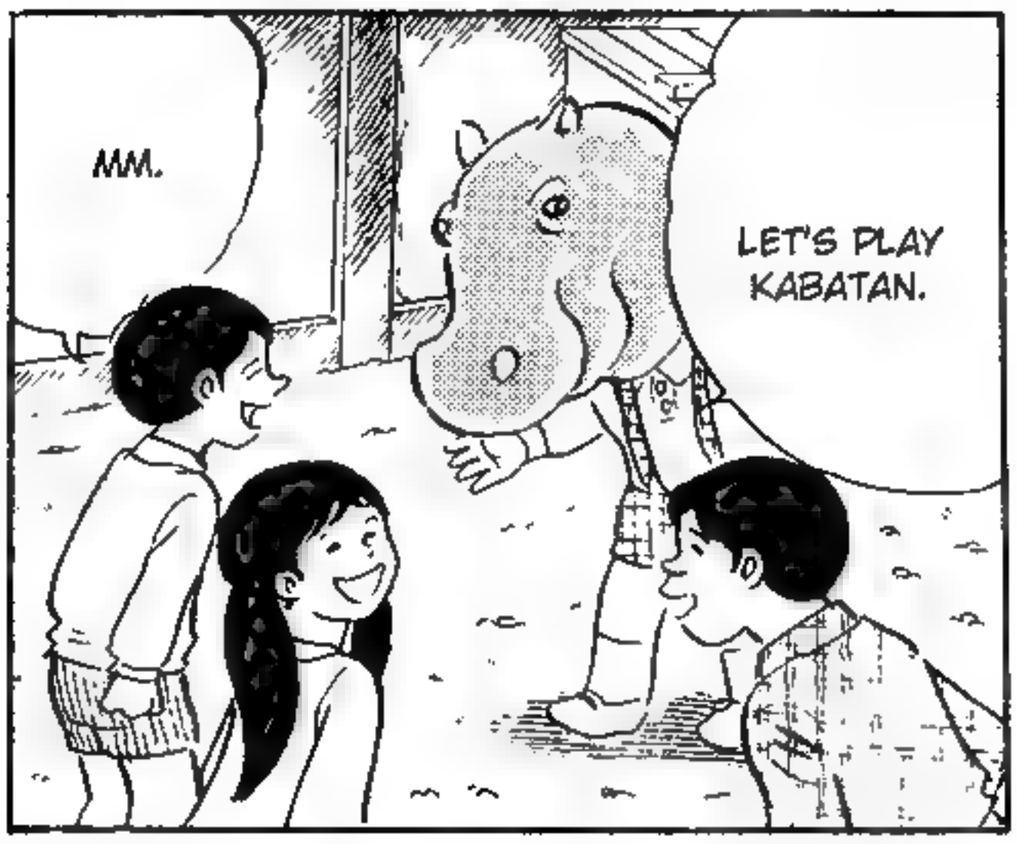
LEMME KNOW ASAP WHEN YOU'RE DUE TO BE RELEASED.

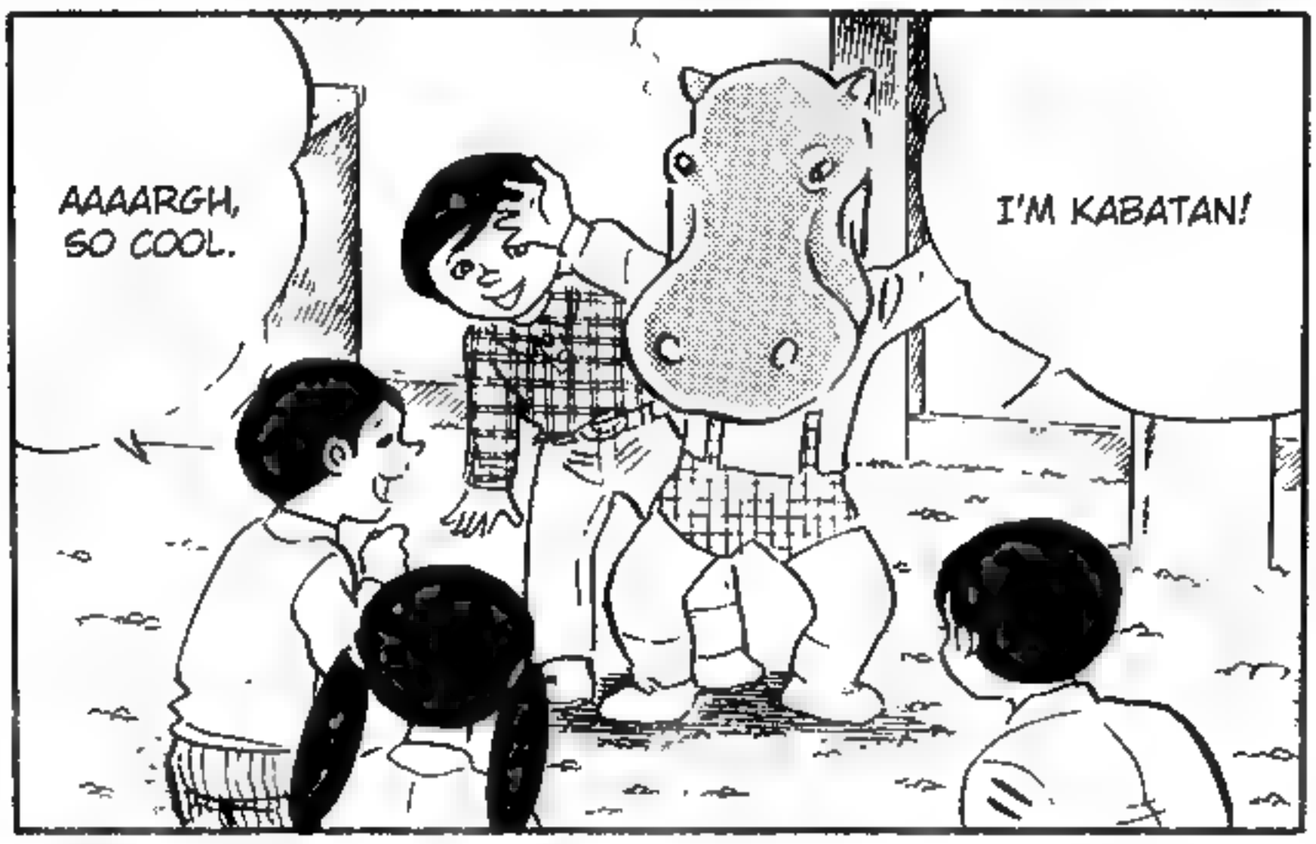
IF ONLY I HAD A YOUNGER BROTHER.

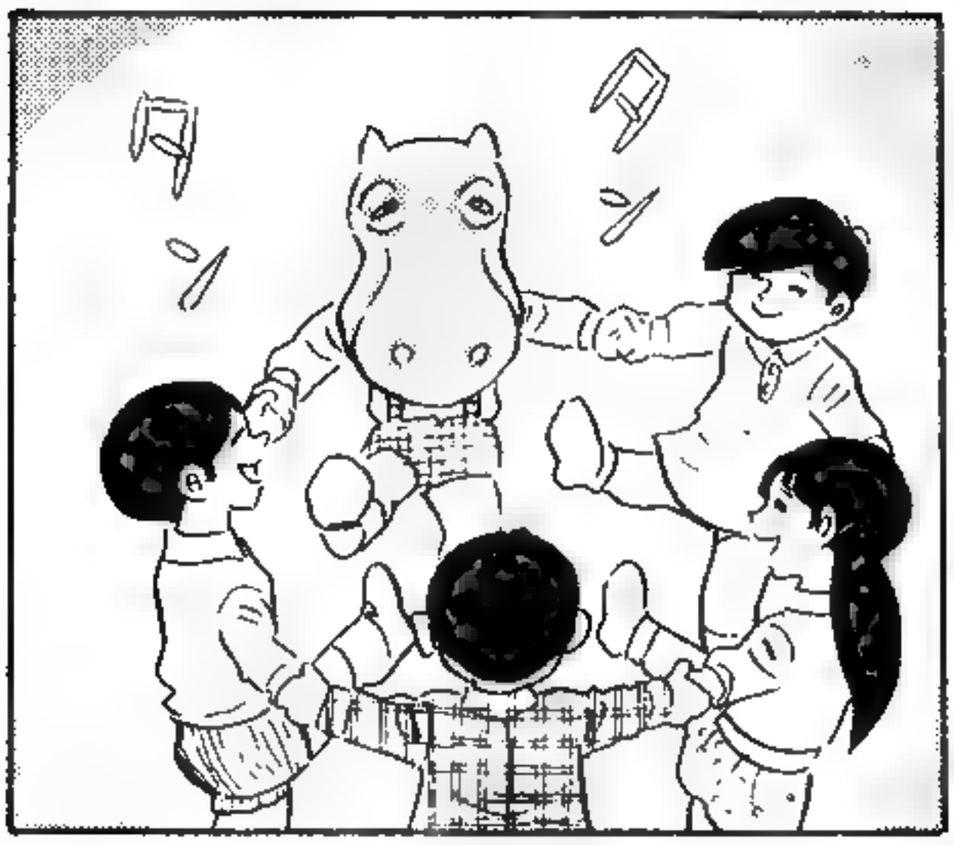
WHAT NICE SIBLINGS YOU ARE...

たばこ

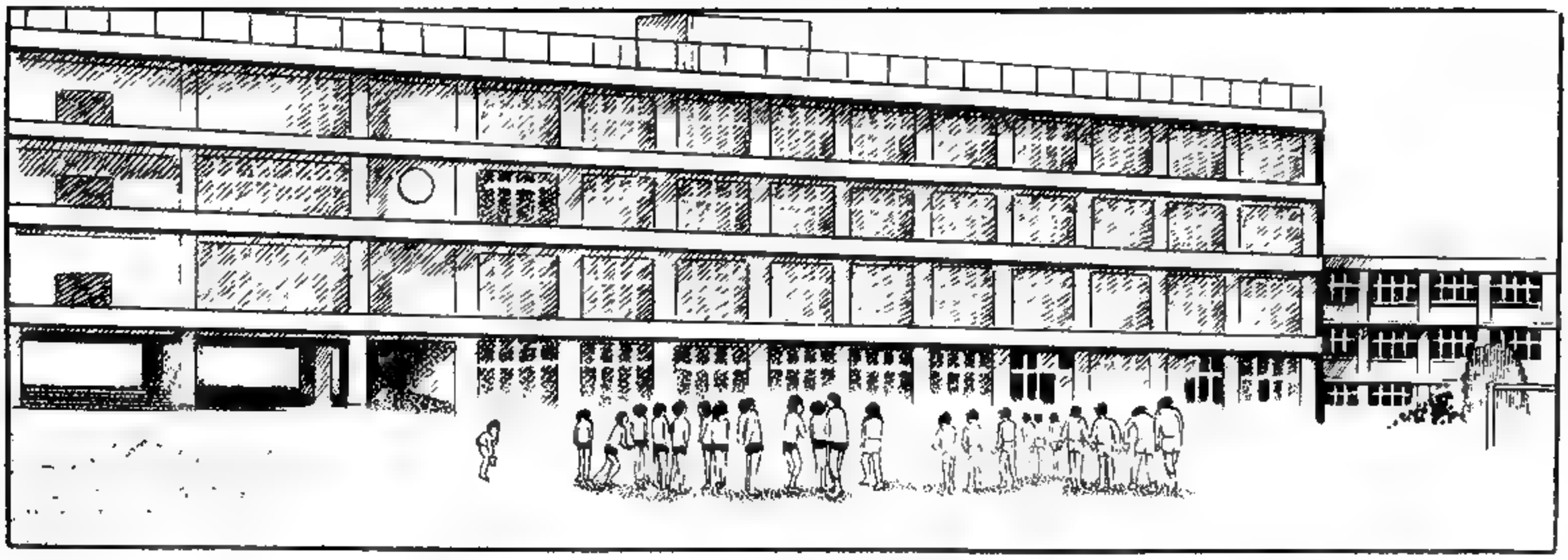
WAAAAH!


MM.
LET'S PLAY KABATAN.

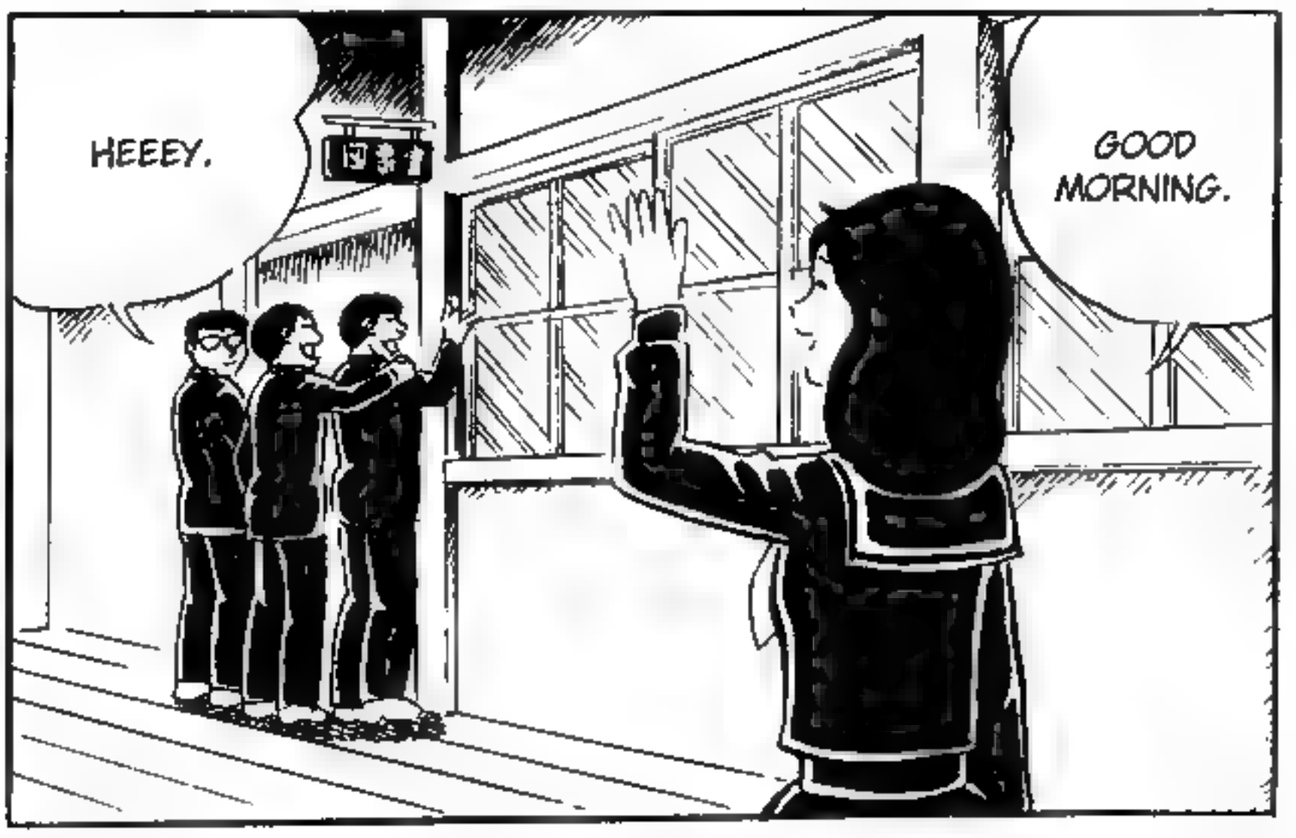

AAAARGH, SO COOL.
I'M KABATAN!



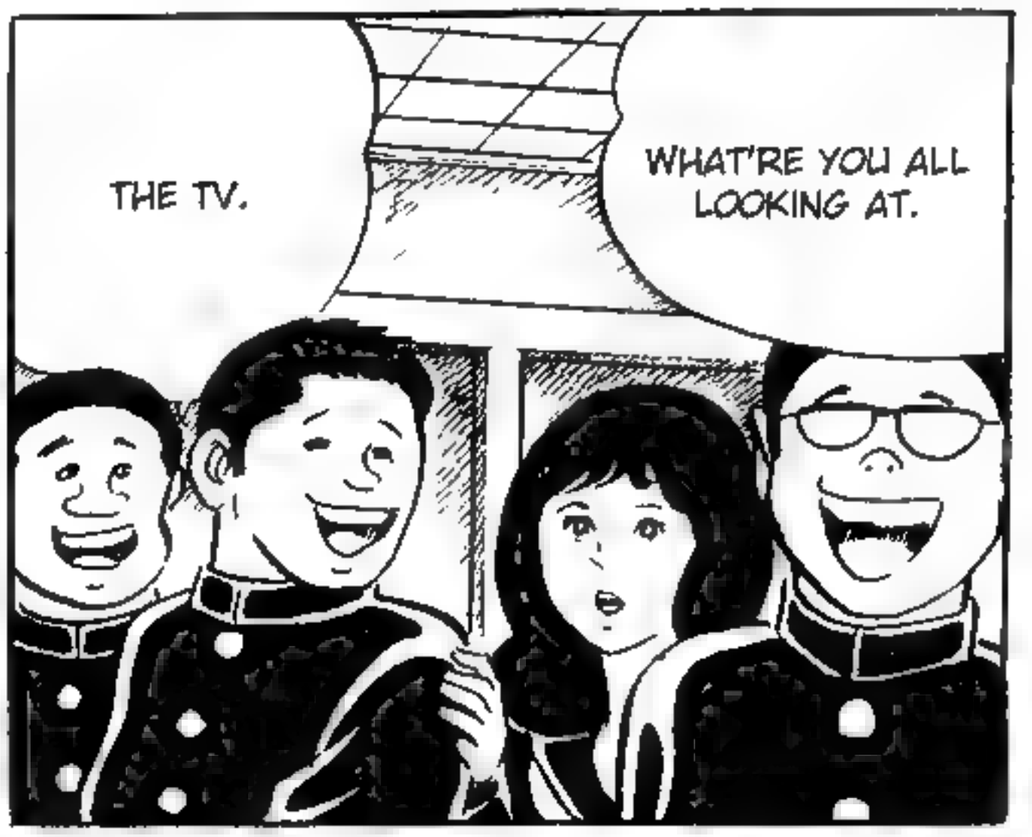
LET'S ALL HOLD HANDS AND DO THE KABATAN DANCE.

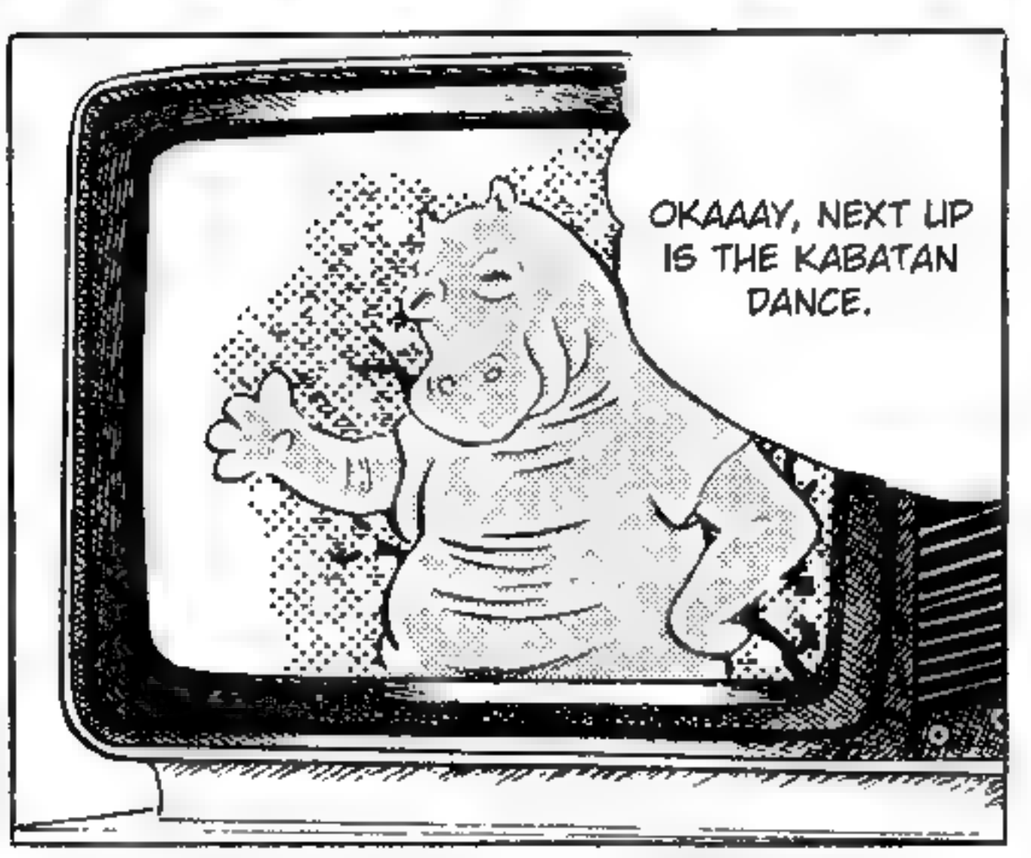


AHAHAHA.
?


HEEEY.
GOOD MORNING.

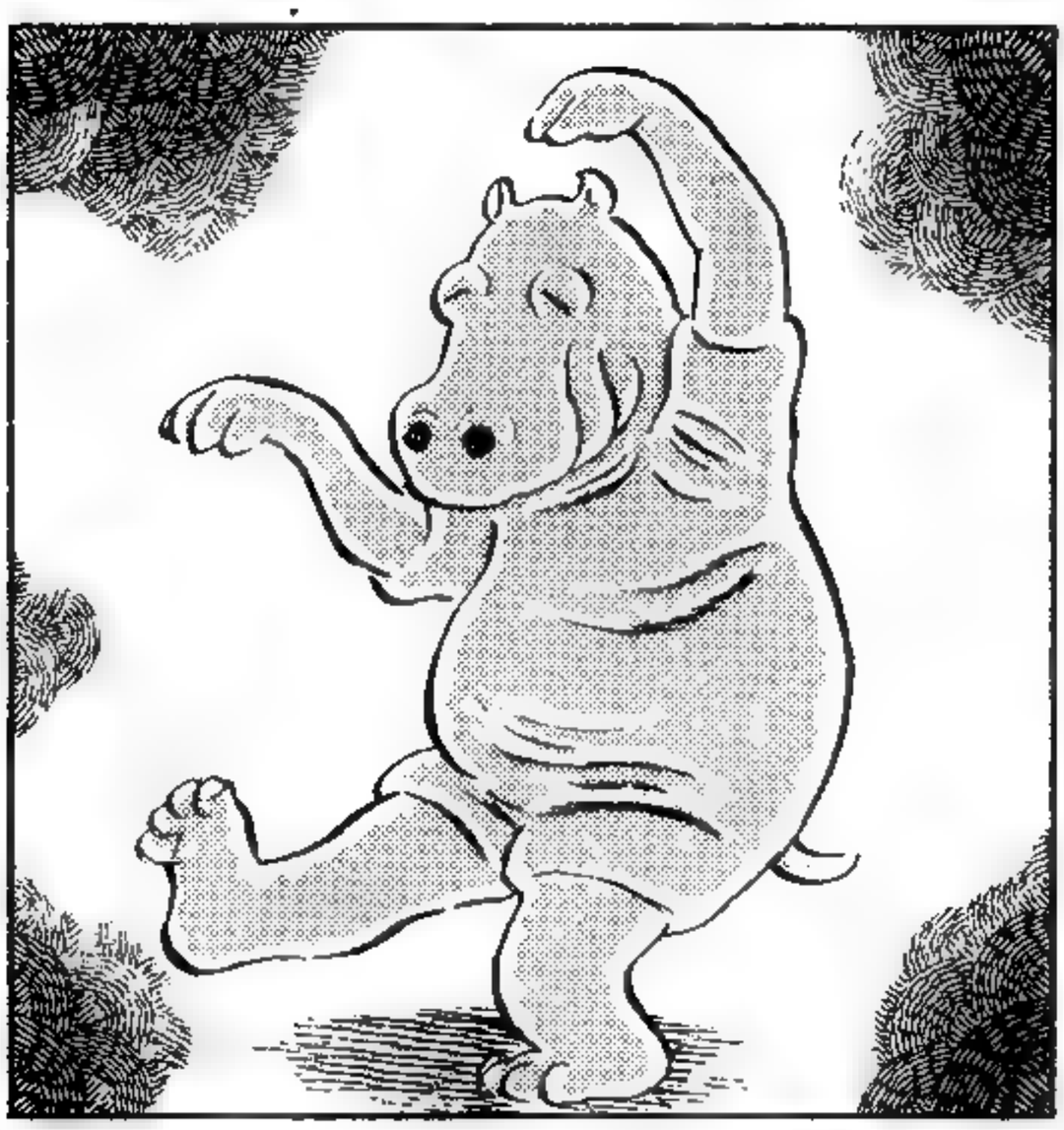
EVERYONE DANCE WITH ME.
GOT IT.

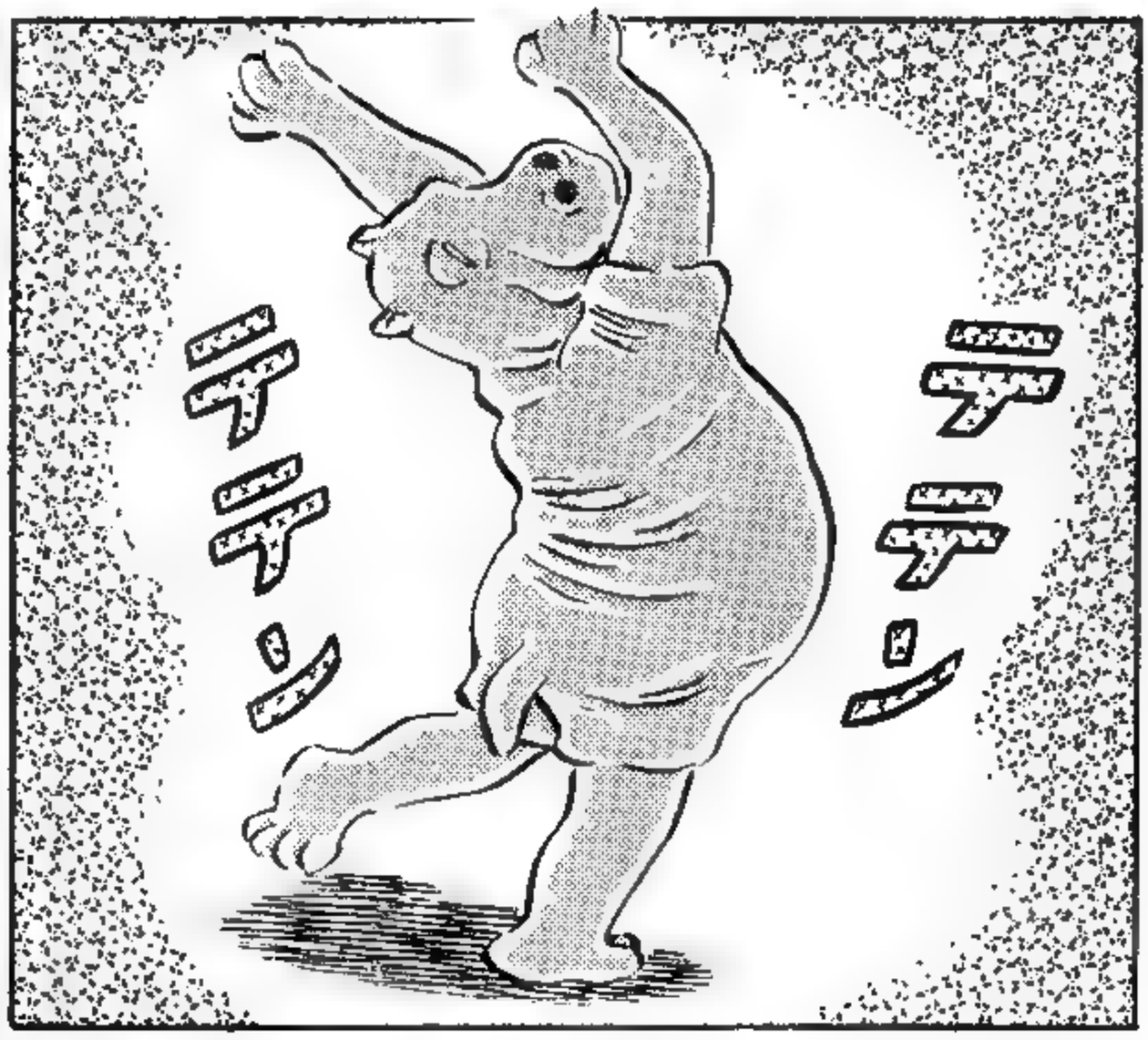

THE TV.
WHAT'RE YOU ALL LOOKING AT.


OKAAAY, NEXT UP IS THE KABATAN DANCE.

カーン
カーン

MM, THEY REALLY LIKE THE KABATAN DANCE.
AH, THE ONE WHICH IS SUPER PROPULAR WITH YOUNG KIDS AT THE MOMENT.
IT'S KABATAN'S MORNING SHOW.




カーン
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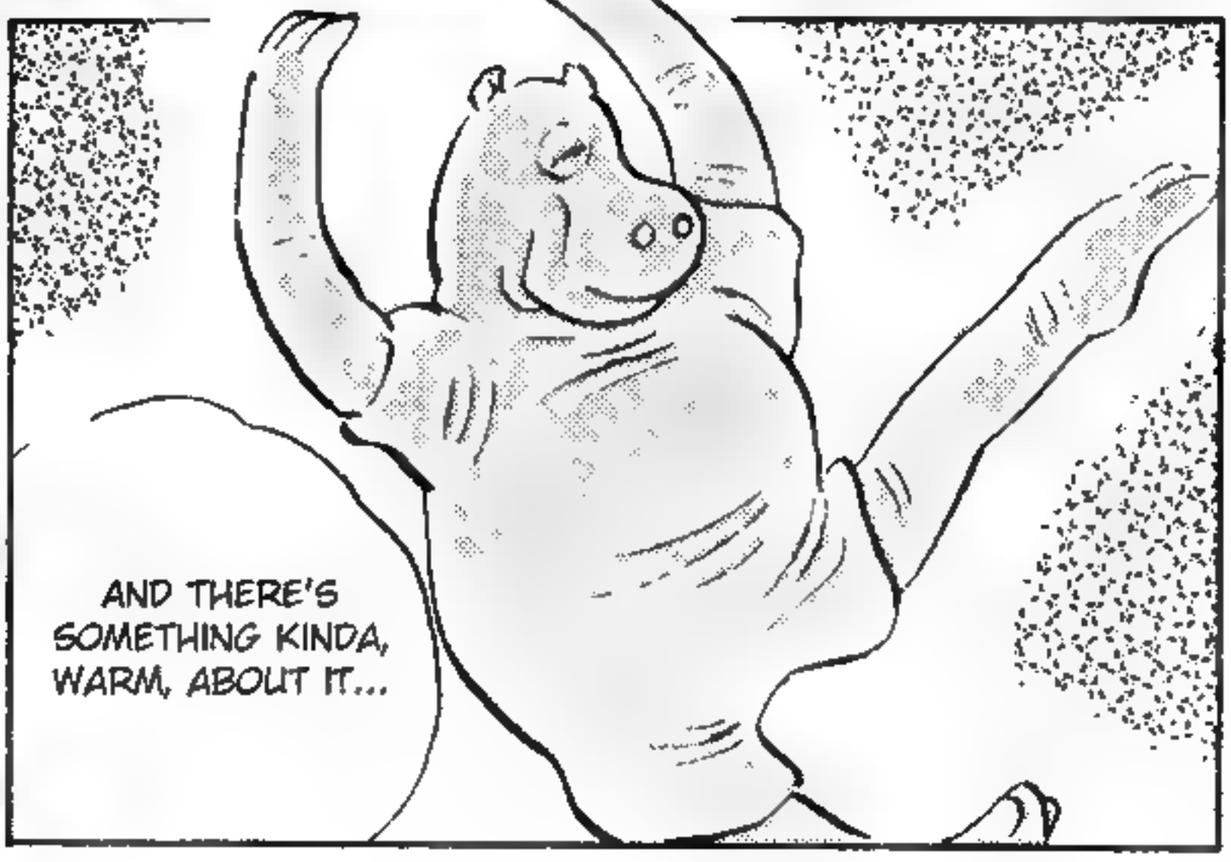
THE MOVEMENT'S SO FUNNY.
AHAHAHAHA!

OH REALLY, I BET THEY'RE YOUNG AND HANDSOME.
I KNOW THE PERSON INSIDE THE COSTUME.


AND THERE'S SOMETHING KINDA, WARM, ABOUT IT...

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

HEEH, BUT HIS MOVES ARE SO CLEVER... I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT AT ALL.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, BUT HE'S AN OLD MAN WHO'S OVER 60.

T/N: THE SIGN READS "KUROI".

OH, WHO'S THERE.

黒井

GOODNESS, IF IT ISN'T MOTOYAMA-KUN. WHAT'S WRONG, YOUR FACE IS AWFULLY PALE.

...

HIS BODY'S GOTTEN A LOT WEAKER, AND HE BARELY EATS.

MM.

D... DON'T TELL ME THAT TOSHI-CHAN'S CONDITION WORSENED?

BUT WASN'T HE MEANT TO BE OUT SOON?!

HAS HE HAD ANOTHER HEART ATTACK.

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

B... BUT HE WAS SO CHEERFUL BEFORE.

HE'S NOT BEEN APPEARING ON TV MUCH RECENTLY.

I BET YOU KNOW ABOUT KABATAN, THE KIDS' FAVOURITE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

OH BUT THERE'S A VERY BIG LINK. TOSHIHIRO'S CONDITION GETTING BETTER WAS DUE TO KABATAN.

I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHY YOU'RE BRINGING THIS UP ALL OF A SUDDEN, WHAT SORT OF LINK CAN THERE BE BETWEEN KABATAN AND TOSHI-CHAN'S ILLNESS?!

WHEN AT HIS SIDE I'D ASK WHAT I COULD DO FOR HIM, BUT HE NEVER WANTED ANYTHING MORE THAN MY ENCOURAGEMENT.

TOSHI-BOU...

AS YOU'RE WELL AWARE, MY YOUNGER BROTHER SUFFERS FROM A HEREDITARY HEART CONDITION. HIS FACE IS ALWAYS A PALE, DEATH-LIKE BLUE.

MY BROTHER WAS BED BOUND, SO TALK OF SPORTS WOULDN'T CHEER HIM UP.

BUT JUST WHAT SORT OF STORIES COULD I TELL HIM TO DO THAT?

WITH SUCH THOUGHTS IN MIND, MY TEARS WOULDN'T STOP.

WOULD HE SPEND HIS WHOLE LIFE WITHOUT KNOWING ANY CHILDISH PLEASURES...?

HE'D ALWAYS BEEN LOCKED AWAY IN HIS ROOM, TALKING TO HIS TOYS...

I KNOW, LET'S WATCH TV TOSHI-BOU.

AHAHAHA.

EH, NO, NOTHING.

WHAT'S WRONG, BRO.

AT THAT MOMENT THE KABATAN DANCE SUDDENLY POPPED UP ON TV.

ALRIGHT, YOUR BIG BRO'LL DANCE ALONG TOO!

TOSHI-BOU LAUGHED, BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL, AS THOUGH WAKING FROM A LONG SLEEP.

KABATAN'S SILLY DANCE REALLY HELPED TO LIFT TOSHI-BOU'S SPIRITS.

THE NEXT TWO, THREE DAYS WILL BE MAKE OR BREAK...

SO WHAT DID THE DOCTORS SAY?

OH MY, KABATAN HAD THAT BIG AN IMPACT.

AS PROOF, WHEN KABATAN DISAPPEARED FROM TV, HIS MOOD DROPPED, AND HIS CONDITION RAPIDLY WORSENED.

I SEEM TO RECALL YOU KNEW THEM KUROI-SAN.

BUT WHY WOULD THE INCREDIBLY POPULAR KABATAN JUST DISAPPEAR.

IT... IT CAN'T BE?!

I DO. I'LL TRY AND MEET UNCLE KABATAN.

IT WAS AROUND HERE, I THINK...

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU THIS, I'M NOT GOING BACK ON TV!

WHAT'S YOUR REASON?

YOUR PROGRAMS A BIG HIT, ISN'T IT?

YOU SAID THAT OUT OF NOWHERE, NOW THE TV STATION'S WORRIED.

BUT WHY NOT?

THEN GET A REPLACEMENT.

COME ON, YOU KNOW YOU'VE SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND YOUNG FANS AWAITING YOUR RETURN.

I AIN'T GOT ONE, I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE APPEARING NOW.

MY REASON...?

TH... THAT'S CRAZY TALK.

IF I DON'T WANNA GO OUT I DON'T WANNA!

YOU LOT DON'T GIVE UP DO YOU.

THE PHONES'LL BE RINGING NONSTOP AT THE STATION DESKS TOMORROW MORNING.

BUT NOT JUST ANYONE CAN COPY YOUR KABATAN DANCE, IT REALLY DOES ENRAPTURE THE KIDS.

FOR NOW COULD YOU JUST GO ON OUT, PLEASE.

I'M STILL YOUNG!

WHO'RE YOU CALLING AN OLD MAN?!

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT AN OLD MAN WOULD BE SO STUBBORN.

EEEP!

HELLO UNCLE, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

IS THAT YOU, MISA-CHAN.

ヒェイ"

...

YES, YOU SEE...

YOU COME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE ME FOR ANY REASON IN PARTICULAR?

GOODNESS, YOUR IMPORTANT PAINTING MATERIALS ARE ALL DUSTY!

?

I KEEP TELLING YOU DON'T I, LIVE LIKE A WIDOWER AND YOU'RE GONNA BE SWARMING WITH MAGGOTS EVENTUALLY.

OH MY, LOOK AT THIS MESS.

AT THIS AGE I DON'T CARE FOR SUCH PASSIONS ANYMORE.

MY PASSION EH, UFUFU...

BUT YOU LOVED PAINTING, IT WAS YOUR ONE PASSION.

I DON'T NEED ANY OF THAT NOW.

ALL I ENJOY NOW IS DRINKING SAKE LIKE THIS.

THEY'RE ALL WITHERED.

OH MY, YOU'VE NOT EVEN BEEN LOOKING AFTER YOUR BONZAI.

SO WHAT CAN I HELP YOU WITH, MISA-CHAN?

ODD. THIS ISN'T LIKE HIM...

BUT WHY?

I WAS FRIENDS WITH YOUR FATHER, MISA-CHAN, BUT THAT ALONE I'LL REFUSE.

HUH?!

I WAS ACTUALLY HOPING YOU COULD RETURN AS KABATAN ON TV...

PLEASE, TAKE A LOOK AT MY CRYSTAL BALL.

NOT AT ALL. THE KIDS LOVE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS, YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO CONCERNED.

I LOOK LIKE A REAL IDIOT PRANCING AROUND AT MY AGE.

THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS WILL BE CRUCIAL.

HOWEVER HIS ILLNESS IS GRAVE, AND THE DOCTOR'S SAY THEY CAN'T SEE ANY WAY OF SAVING HIM...

THIS BOY'S A FAN OF KABATAN.

IT'S TRUE, SO PLEASE, DO IT UNCLE!

AHAHAHA, NO WAY.

I AM, WITHIN AN HOUR OF WATCHING YOU ON TV HE RECOVERS, UNCLE.

SO WHAT OF IT, YOU SAYING IF I DO THE KABATAN DANCE HE'LL GET BETTER?

NOW, PLEASE GO HOME, MISA-CHAN.

LOOK. NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU BEG IT'S A NO.

UNCLE...

...

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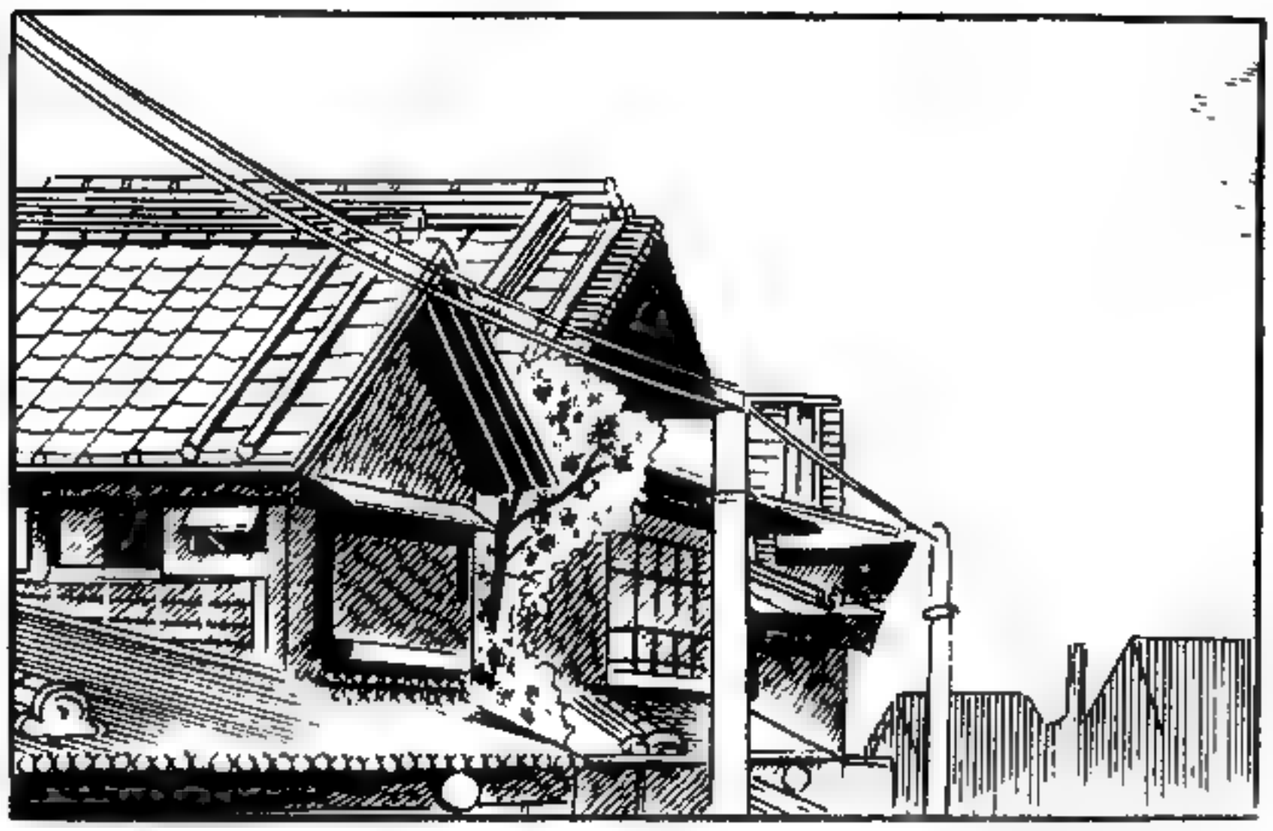
U... UNCLE!

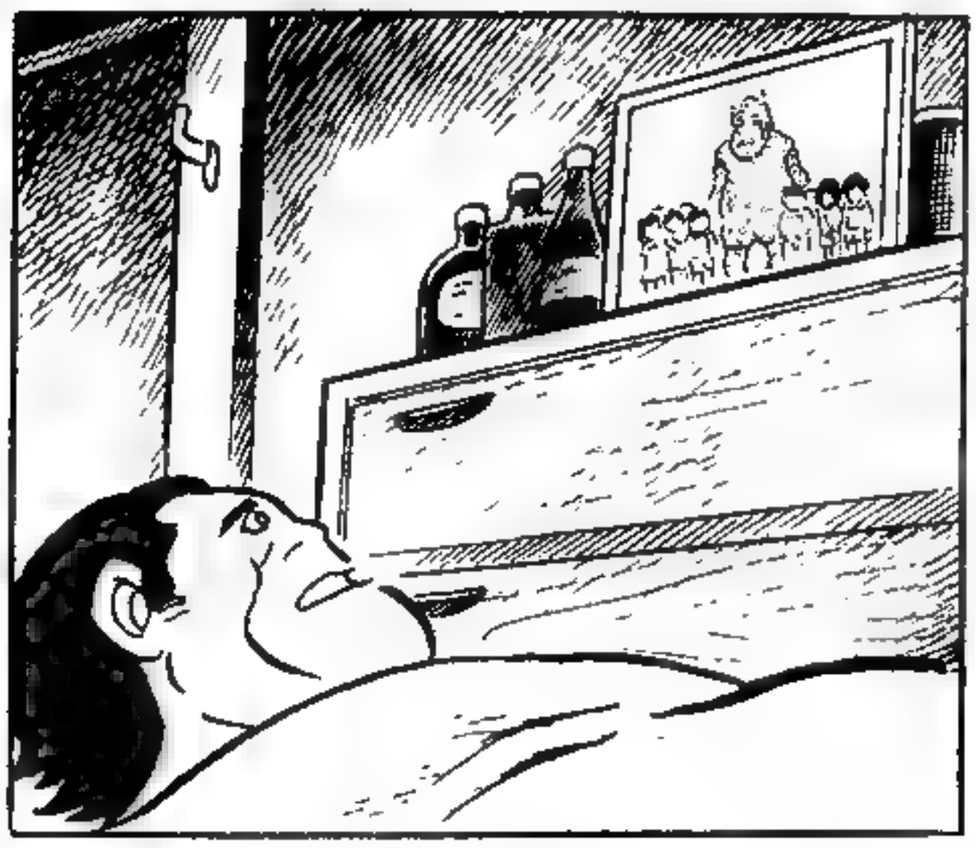
UUH!

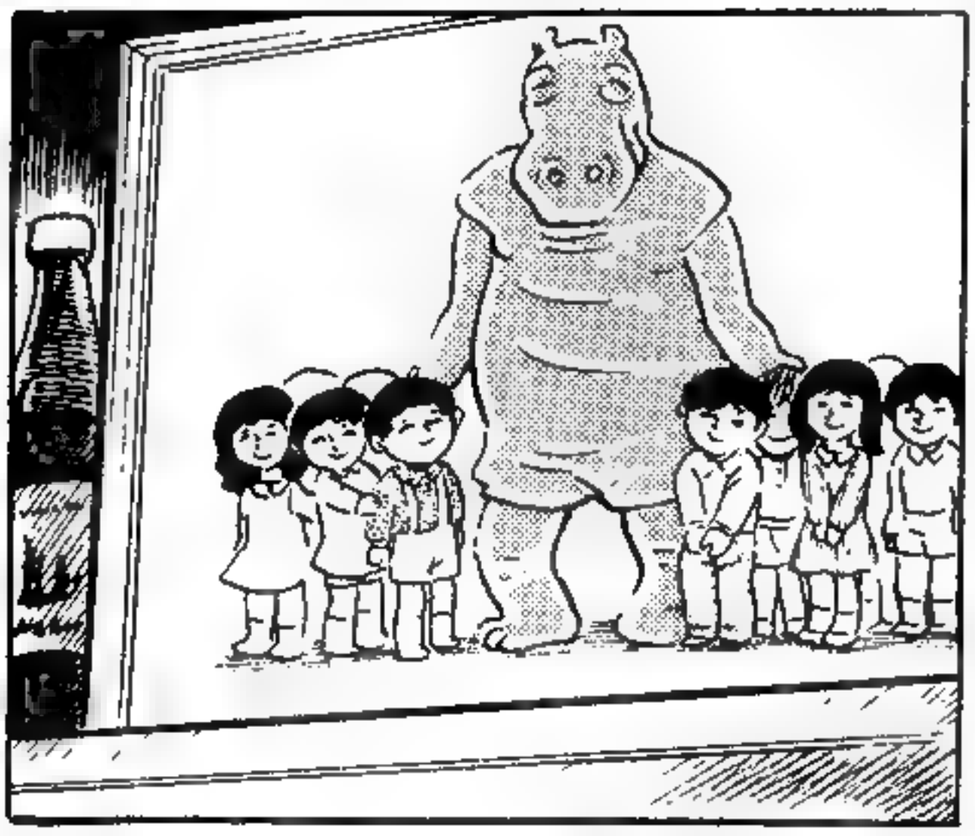
ううっ…

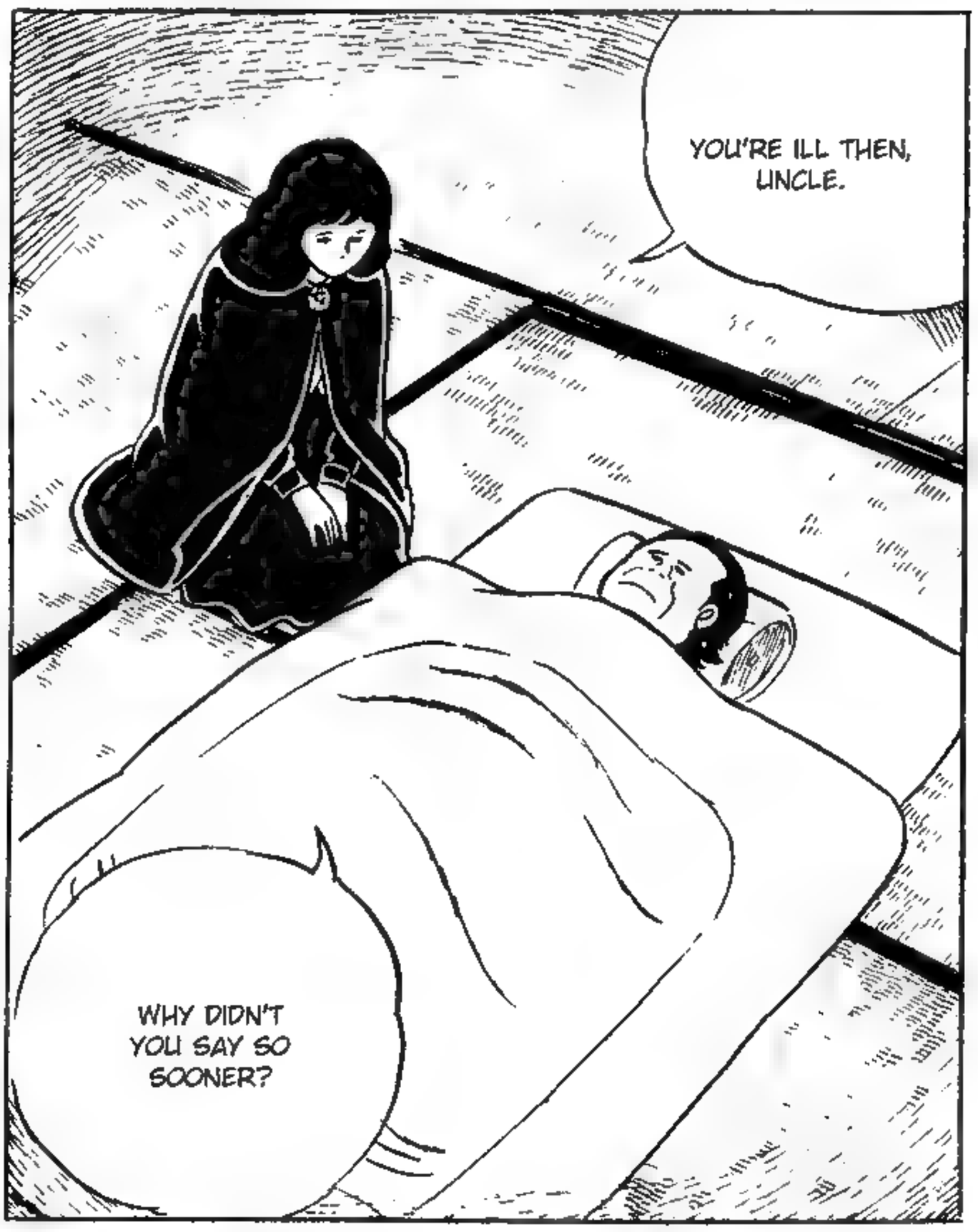
HANG IN THERE, UNCLE!

UUUUUUH...








YOU'RE ILL THEN, UNCLE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER?

WHATCHA MEAN, I'VE STILL SOMETHING LEFT IN THE TANK. UFUFU.
BUT YOUR BODY...

PHONE THE TV STATION, MISA-CHAN.
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE FOR IT.

HELLO, MOTOYAMA-KUN.

UNCLE.

MM, I AM.

ARE YOU LISTENING, MOTOYAMA-KUN?

HELLO...?

KABATAN WILL BEGIN AGAIN TOMORROW.

GREAT NEWS.

EH?!

I'M GRATEFUL... BUT TOSHI-BOU CAN NO LONGER EVEN WATCH TV.

WELL...

WHAT'S WRONG, YOU SOUND AWFULLY DOWN.

HIS CONDITION'S THAT BAD?!

WE'LL BE DANCING THE KABATAN DANCE!

YEEEES, EVERYONE GATHER AROUND!

GOT IT, EVERYONE DANCE WITH ME.

YES, BIG SMILES NOW.

面会謝絶

T/N: THE DOOR READS "NO VISITORS."

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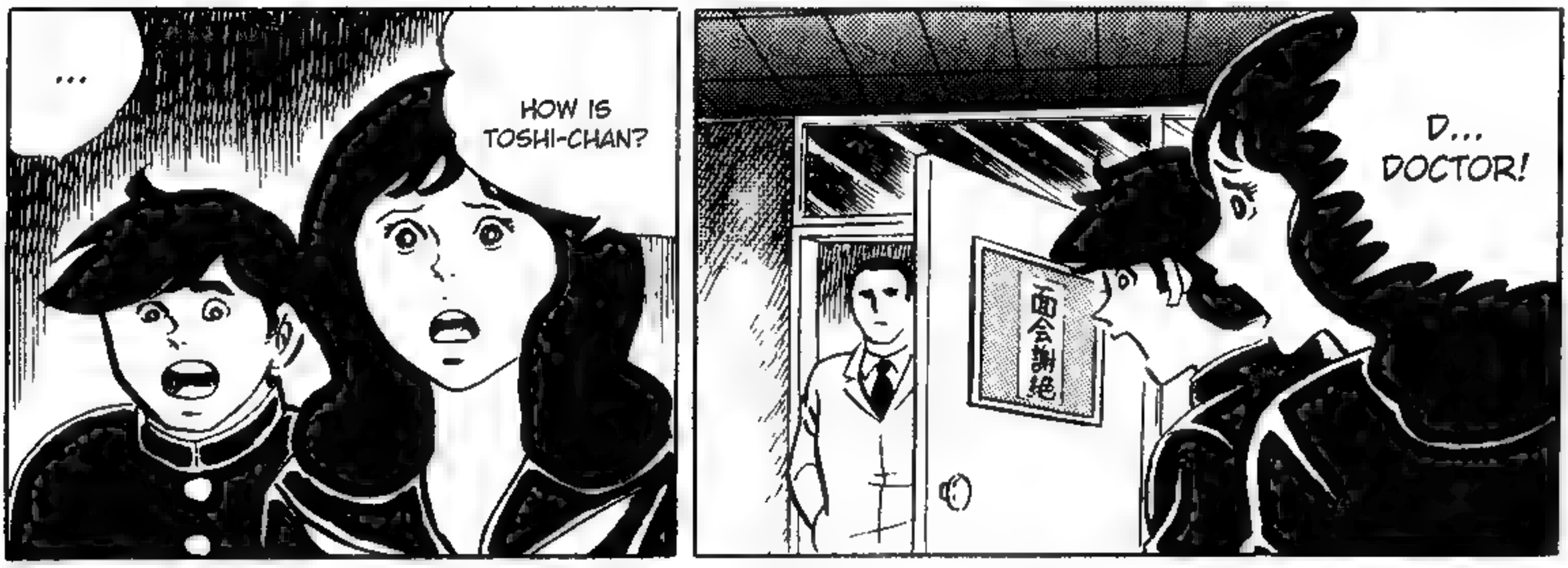
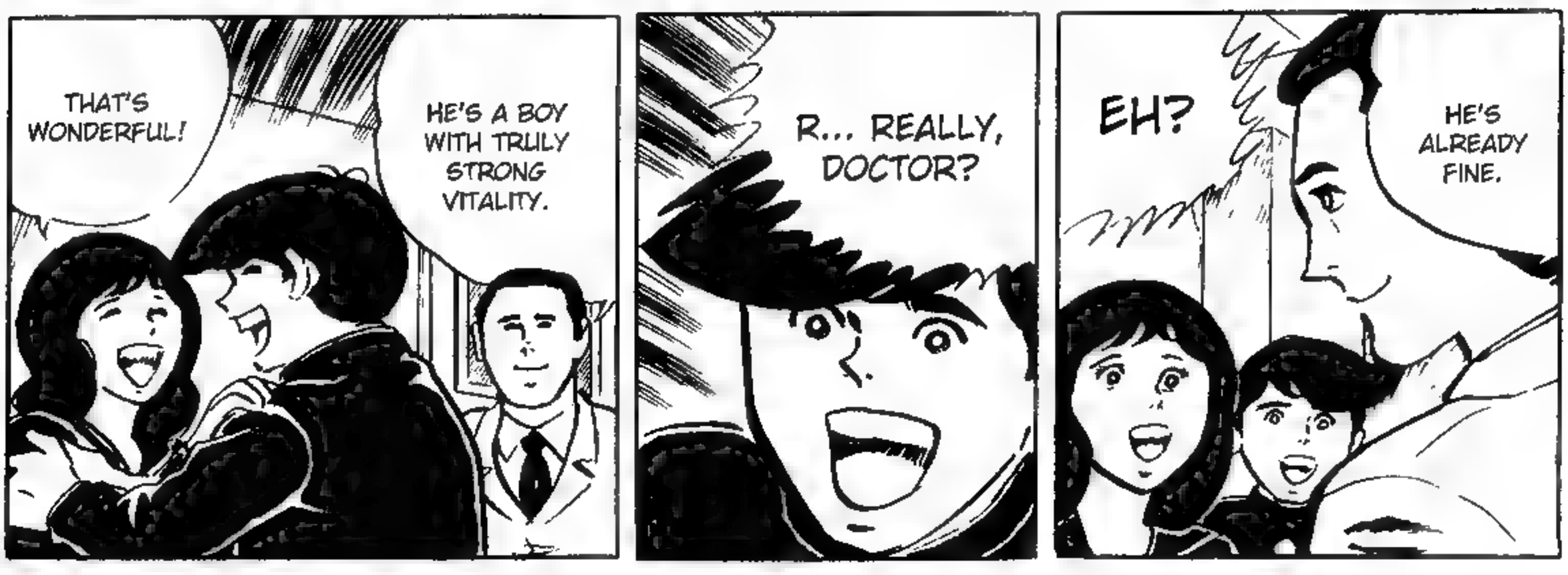
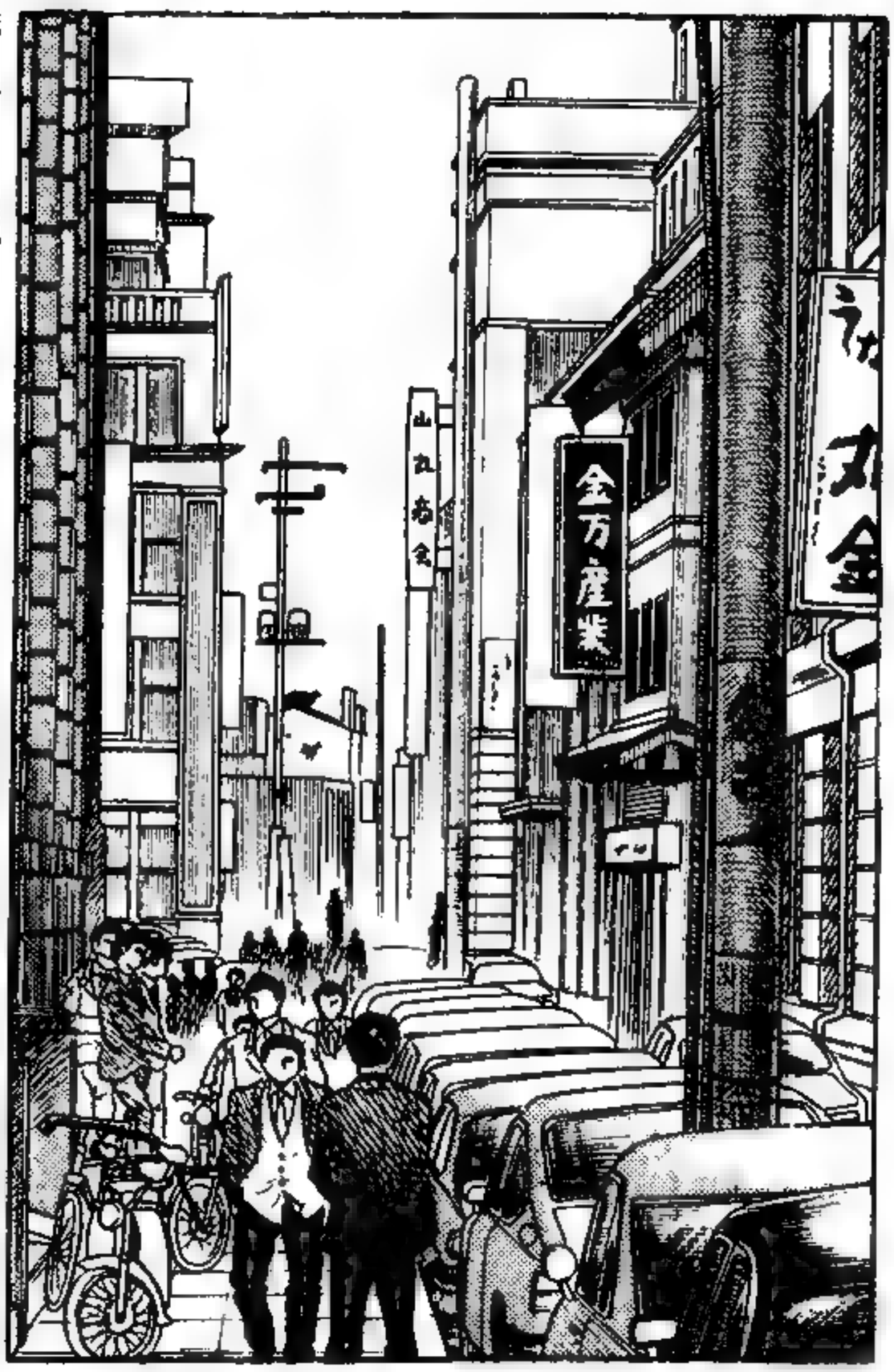
面会謝絶

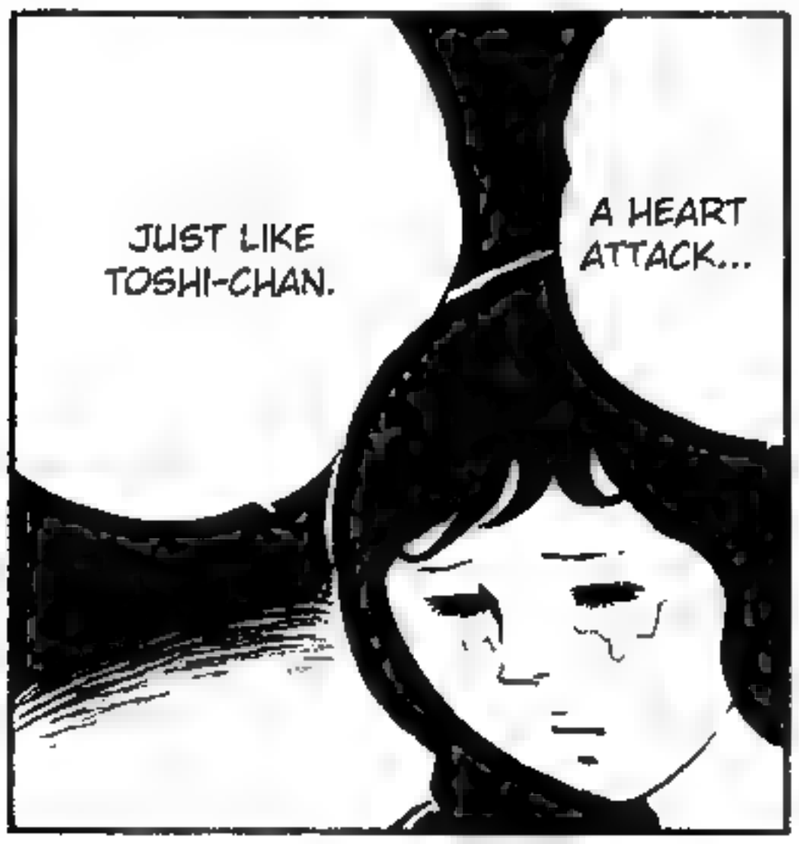

...
HOW IS TOSHI-CHAN?
D... DOCTOR!
面会謝絶

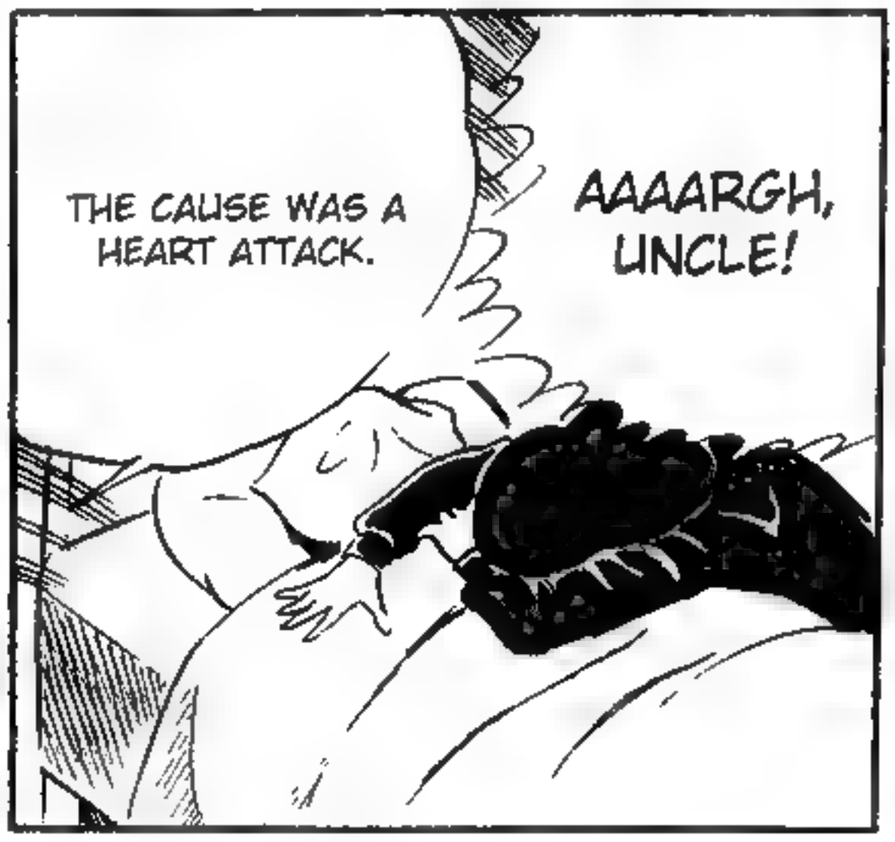

THAT'S WONDERFUL!
HE'S A BOY WITH TRULY STRONG VITALITY.
R... REALLY, DOCTOR?
EH?
HE'S ALREADY FINE.

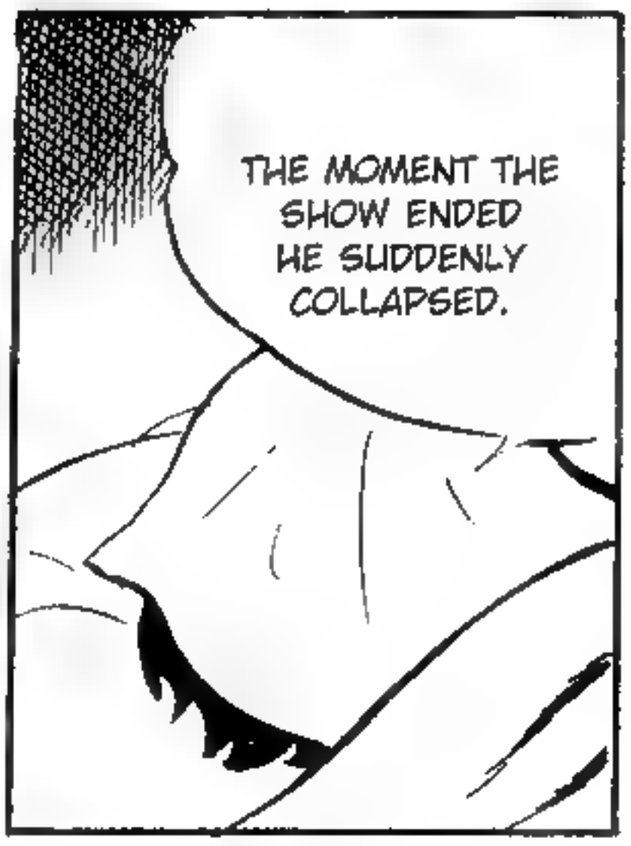
MM!
PLEASE DO!
OKAY, I'M GONNA GO TELL UNCLE.
THIS IS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE.
BUT HE'D BEEN IN CRITICAL CONDITION BEFORE...

U...
UNCLE!


山九商会
金方産業


JUST LIKE TOSHI-CHAN.
A HEART ATTACK...


THE CAUSE WAS A HEART ATTACK.
AAAARGH, UNCLE!


THE MOMENT THE SHOW ENDED HE SUDDENLY COLLAPSED.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, UNCLE...

HE MUST'VE DIED IN TOSHI-CHAN'S PLACE.

♣HHH
♣アザラク

GETTING ONE'S FIRST VICTORY MARK WITH BLACK MAGIC?!

PUT SOME SPIRIT INTO IT! YOU'RE STILL IN, STILL IN!

ドドド

HE DROPPED HIM, IT'S OOOOOVER!

AND IN THE WEEEST, OOSATOOOO...

東京スポー

IN THE EEEAST, NISHIDAAAAA...

OH MY!

KYAAAA, DO YOUR BEST, OOSATO-KUUUUN!

HE HAS AN INCREDIBLE BODY.

THIS WON'T EVEN BE A MATCH.

I CAN'T WATCH!

HM?

BOO

DAMN!

UUH!

GOODNESS. HE WAS SO BIG, YET LOST!

WHAT A DISGRACE!

MMMM!

WHAT A SHOCK. HE MUST'VE LET HIS GUARD DOWN.

HE ALWAYS LOSES, EVER SINCE HE BEGAN.

THAT MUST BE ANNOYING, I CAN SYMPATHISE...

NO WAY COULD I BE LIKE HIM.

I GUESS HE'S GOTTEN USED TO NOTHING BUT FAILURE MARKS SINCE HE DEBUTED.

HE'S HIDING HIS SHAME.

LOOK AT THAT. HE LOST, YET HE'S GOING BACK WITH HIS CHEST ALL PUFFED OUT.

TOP FORM?

YEAH I CAN TELL, RIGHT NOW I'M IN TOP FORM.

MY SUMO EH...

EH, OH NO.

WHO'S GOTTEN USED TO WHAT?!

WE JUST MEANT YOUR BODY'S GOTTEN FIRMER SO YOU'RE GETTING USED TO BEING IN THE RING...

DOSUKOI!

YEAH, I FEEL LIKE MY BODY'S GETTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

T/N: "DOSUKOI" IS AN EXCLAMATION USED IN SUMO.

...

AHAHAHAHA, YOU GOT ANOTHER FAILURE MARK TOO.

OI, NAKAMURA. WHAT'S UP, YOU NOT FEELING TOO GOOD?

ZOOO

ZOOO

AAH, I FEEL REFRESHED.

BUT EVEN THE STABLE MASTER SEEMS LIKELY TO GIVE UP ON ME.

YOU ONLY JUST STARTED, PULL IT TOGETHER.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PRACTICE I NEVER WIN...

YOU ARE?

I'M THINKING OF QUITTING THIS TOURNAMENT.

WE'RE BOTH TOTAL FAILURES, WE SHOULD TRY GET ALONG.

YOU KNOW WHAT, I DON'T FEEL AT EASE WHEN HE GLARES AT ME EITHER.

HIS ATTITUDE...

NO, BUT I CAN TELL FROM HIS ATTITUDE...

HAS HE SAID AS MUCH?

YOU'VE A LOSER'S MINDSET AT WORK!

I'VE SEEN YOUR RINGSIDE MANNER. BEFORE YOU EVEN FIGHT YOU'VE BEEN SWALLOWED UP BY YOUR OPPONENT.

KEEP THAT WEEDY ATTITUDE AND OF COURSE YOU'LL GET NOWHERE.

W... WAIT, NAKAMURA!

I REALLY JUST DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO RANK UP.

...

YOU GET COMPLETELY SWALLOWED BY YOUR OPPONENTS TOO.

EH.

THEN AREN'T YOU THE SAME.

I NEVER WIN EVEN WITH ALL MY PRACTICE.

QUIT?

MAYBE I SHOULD ALSO QUIT.

AMAZING, YOU WON AGAIN.

GREAT JOB, MURATA.

DON'T COPY PEOPLE!

HM!

BUT EVEN THE STABLE MASTER SEEMS LIKELY TO GIVE UP ON ME.

YOU ONLY JUST STARTED, PULL IT TOGETHER.

HE MIGHT JUST WIN THIS WHOLE THING NOW!

NO NO, TODAY WAS A FLUKE.

OOOI, NAKAYAMA WON TOO!

MM, I WANNA WIN TOMORROW AND GET A POSITIVE RATIO.

YOU'RE IN GREAT FORM, THREE WINS AND ONE LOSS.

I SEE, YOU ARE RIGHT.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH THOSE TWO HERE.

TACHIBANA STABLE MIGHT WELL HAVE ALL ITS MEMBERS WIN IN THIS TOURNAMENT.

IT'S AS HIS FATHER SAID, HE'S A MAN OF TALENT WHO'S BOUND TO BECOME A YOKOZUNA.

TRUST THE OVER-ACHIEVER.

DON'T BE SO DOWN.

OI, NAKA-MURA.

...

NA... NAKAMURA!

WH... WHAT WAS THAT?!

STOP, STOP, THAT'S A HOPELESS ORDER.

IF YOU'RE THAT VEXED THEN GET YOUR FIRST VICTORY MARK.

HEY, YOU LOT. DON'T GET SO CONCEITED JUST COS YOU'RE IN GOOD FORM!

EVEN SO, US TWO ARE IN REAL TROUBLE.

KEH, SCREW THE VICTORY MARKS.

AHAHAHAHA...

AND ALL IT'LL LEAD TO IS EXPULSION.

I'VE ALSO BEEN STUCK GETTING FAILURE MARKS FOR SOME TIME NOW.

WHEN YOU GET IN A LOSING STREAK LIKE THIS THERE'S NO COMING BACK.

YOU'RE SO QUICK TO TURN PESSIMISTIC YOU KNOW, THAT'S A REAL ISSUE.

HM?

THAT IS YOU, GONTA-SAN!

GONTA-SAN.

YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY FOUND YOU CAME HERE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

REALLY NOW. I WAS IN THE STANDS, DIDN'T YOU SEE ME?

WAIT, MIDORI-CHAN. AS IN MY RELATIVE, MIDORI-CHAN?

IT'S ME.

THATS A KINDA CREEPY NAME.

OH YEAH, LET ME INTRODUCE MY FRIEND, KUROI MISA-SAN.

BUT YOU CAN'T LOSE FAITH, IT'LL WORRY ME.

I KNOW, I'LL BE OUT SOON.

COULD SHE REALLY GRANT THAT WISH?

CORRECT, HOW ABOUT SHE USE IT TO HELP YOU GET YOUR FIRST VICTORY MARK?

BLACK MAGIC...?

UFUFU. SHE CAN USE BLACK MAGIC.

I'VE NO INTEREST IN USING THE POWER OF BLACK MAGIC FOR SPORTS.

WH... WHY NOT?

I REFUSE.

MAKE ME STRONGER IN SUMO.

WELL, I'LL GIVE IT A GO THEN.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH BLACK MAGIC.

YOU BOW YOUR HEAD TOO!

OOSATO-SAN.

I'M BEGGING YOU. I HAVE TO WIN THIS TIME, PLEASE.

I MIGHT WELL BE KICKED OUT IF I FAIL TO GET MY FIRST WIN HERE.

SHUT UP, BUTT OUT.

SHE'S RIGHT, I OBJECT TOO.

G... GREAT, EH, NAKAMURA.

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE, I'LL CAST IT TONIGHT.

MM...

CAN'T YOU! DO SOMETHING, MISA-SAN.

...

SO PLEASE, ENTER THE MAGIC CIRCLE.

I SHALL NOW BEGIN THE DEMON INVOCATION.

...

EKO EKO AZARAK!

VO

THINK OF THIS AS THE RING AND FIGHT THE DEMON.

EH?

I SHALL ALLOW YOU TO PRACTICE WITH ME.

AH!

VERY WELL!

COME AT ME WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!

RIGHT, SO I'LL GET STRONGER IF I TRAIN AGAINST THE DEMON.

HM.

DOSUKOI!

YES, YES IT WAS.

HOW WEAK.

WH... WHAT?!

YOUR STRIKE WAS WEAK, FIRE YOURSELF UP!

DOSUKOI!

ALRIGHT!

I... IDIOT, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WELL, GIVE UP?

OWOWOW!

UH.

ドロロ

YES, THIS WAS SUMO TRAINING.

DON'T PLAY DUMB, I'M NOT A WRESTLER!

WHY EXACTLY?

TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!

ドド

SMASH ME AS HARD AS YOU CAN!

VERY WELL.

ガビ

ゴオ

LOOK, THIS IS SUMO!

THE HELL, YOU THINK YOU KNOW SUMO DO YOU?!

THAIS IS THE REASON YOU KEEP GETTING FAILURE MARKS!

COME ON, COME ON. WHAT'RE YOU SO TIMID FOR?!

LIKE SO!

EEEEP!

UGYAAAH!

PLEASE STOP IT!

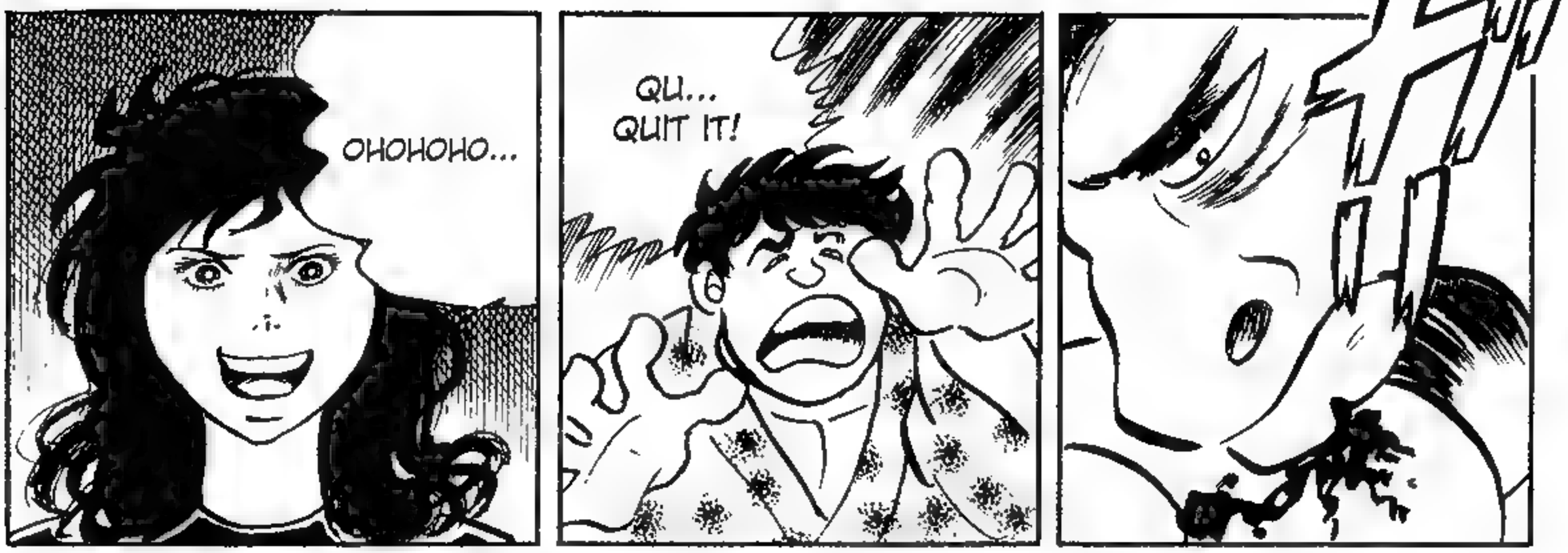
GYAAAAAH!

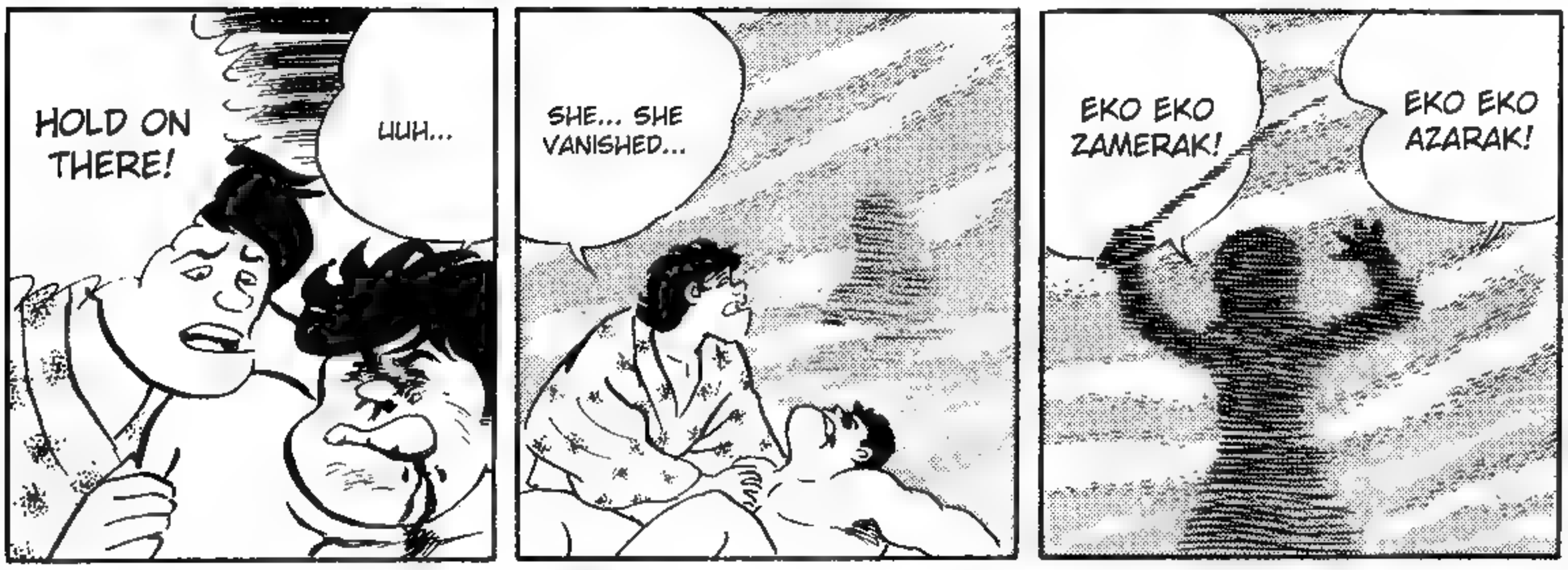
DON'T DAWDLE, COME ON, PRACTICE!

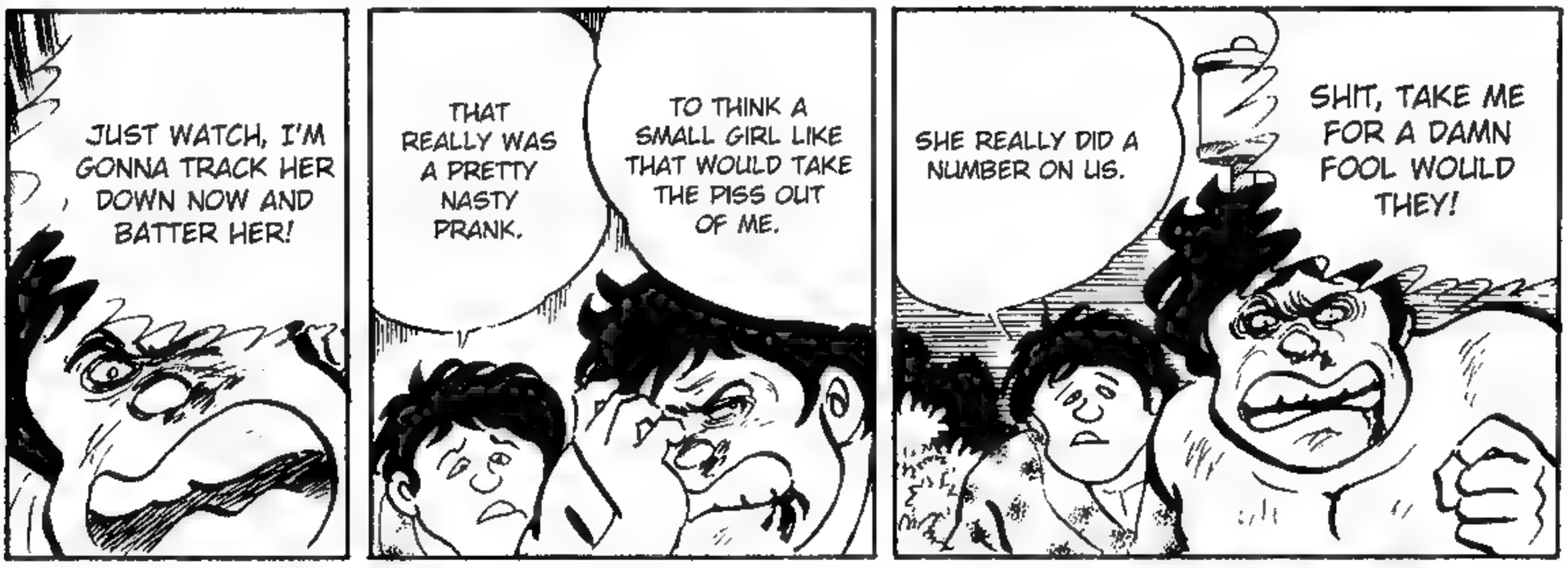
FUFUFU...

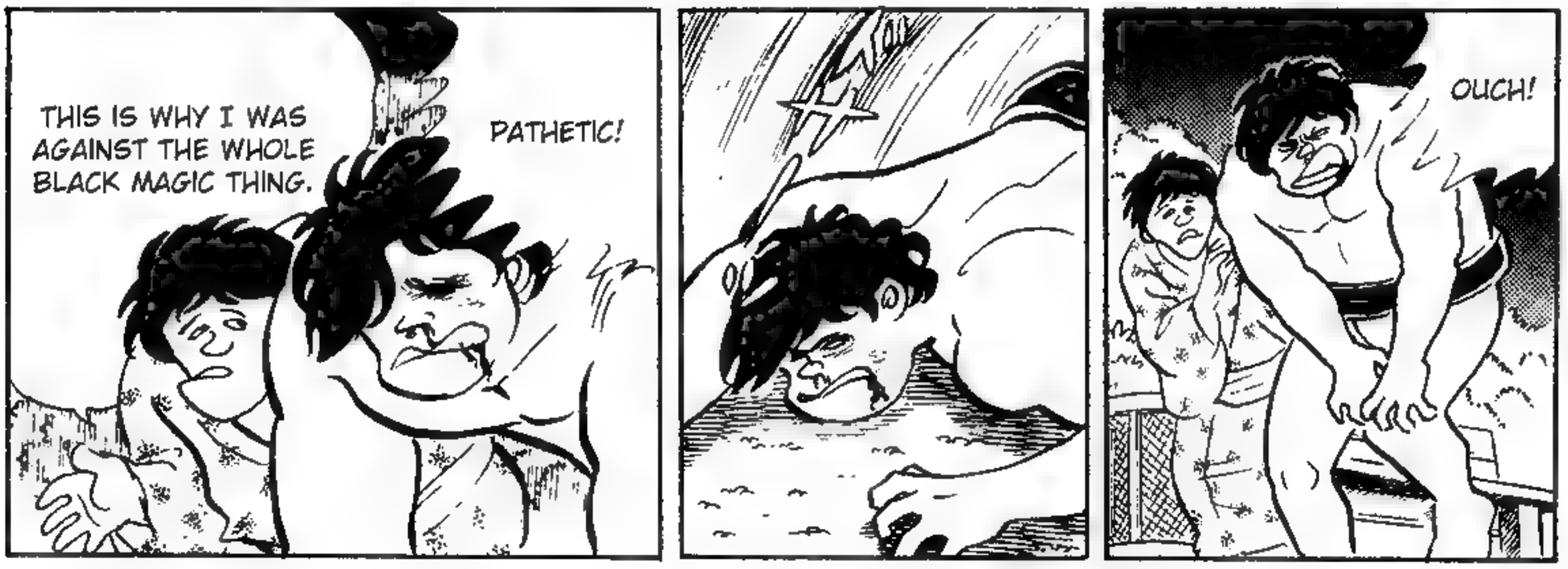
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO'S LIKE A PRO WRESTLER NOW?

NEXT IS A FOUL!


OHOHOHO...
QU...
QUIT IT!


HOLD ON THERE!
UUH...
SHE... SHE VANISHED...
EKO EKO ZAMERAK!
EKO EKO AZARAK!


JUST WATCH, I'M GONNA TRACK HER DOWN NOW AND BATTER HER!
THAT REALLY WAS A PRETTY NASTY PRANK.
TO THINK A SMALL GIRL LIKE THAT WOULD TAKE THE PISS OUT OF ME.
SHE REALLY DID A NUMBER ON US.
SHIT, TAKE ME FOR A DAMN FOOL WOULD THEY!


THIS IS WHY I WAS AGAINST THE WHOLE BLACK MAGIC THING.
PATHETIC!
OUCH!

UUUUUUUH!

YOU GET A VICTORY MARK WITH YOUR OWN STRENGTH...

I THINK YOU WERE WRONG IN THE FIRST PLACE TO TRY AND RELY ON MAGIC TO WIN.

BUTT OUT!

ドゴ

ドゴ

EEP, EEP.

HAAH, HAAH.

O... OOSATO-SAN!

UUUUH...

BASTARD SURE RAN HIS BLOODY MOUTH...

SO WHY.

WITH YOUR OWN STRENGTH EH... I GET THAT ALL TOO WELL.

THE IDIOT, HE WON'T GET ANY STRONGER RUSHING OFF FIRST THING TO TRAIN.

THE HELL?!

OOSATO.

TALK ABOUT LOUD, WHO'S THAT THIS EARLY...

AAALRIGHT!

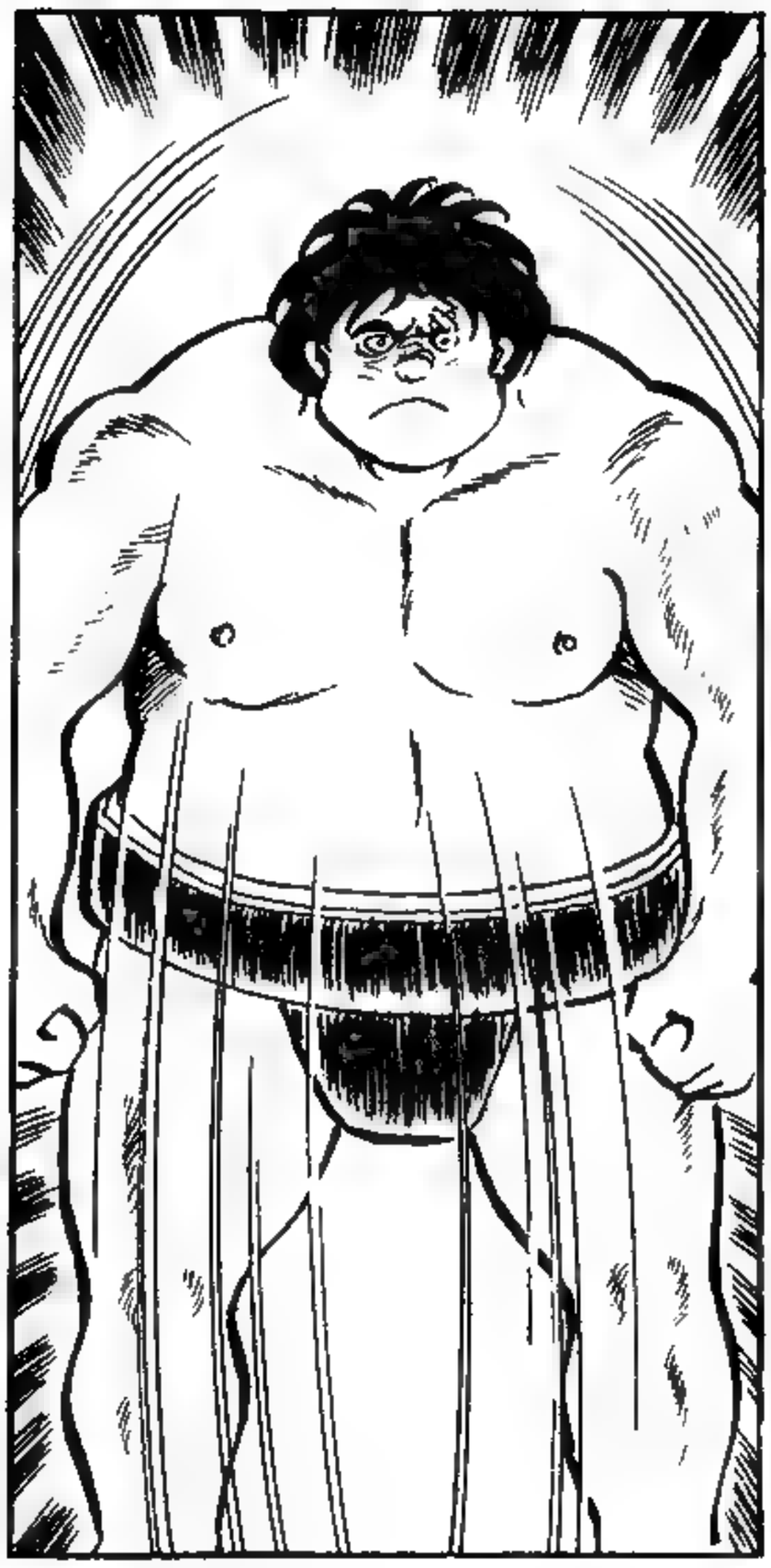
THE FOLLOW-ING MORN-ING...

SHIT!

DAAAAAAAH!

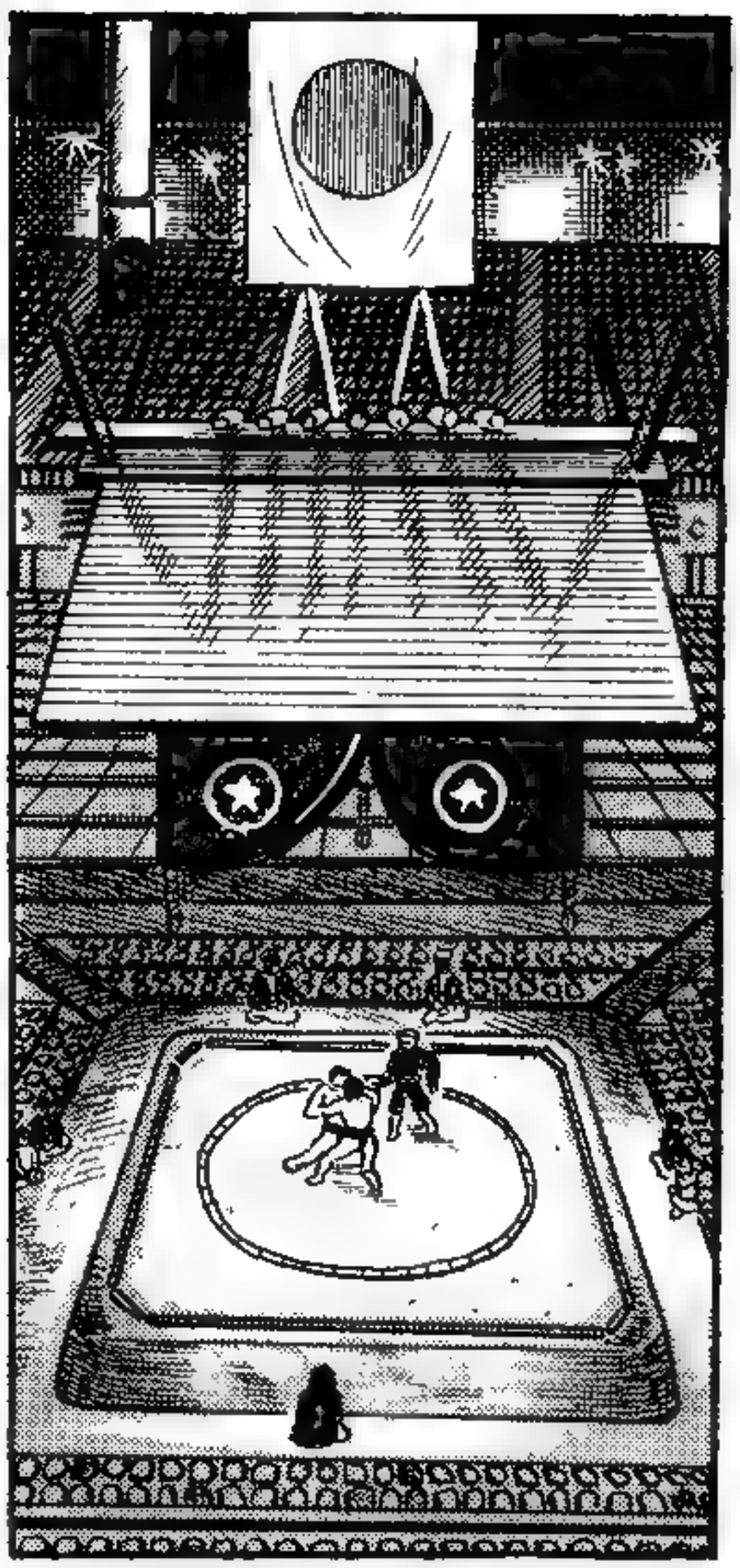
UUH!

UOOOOOOOH!



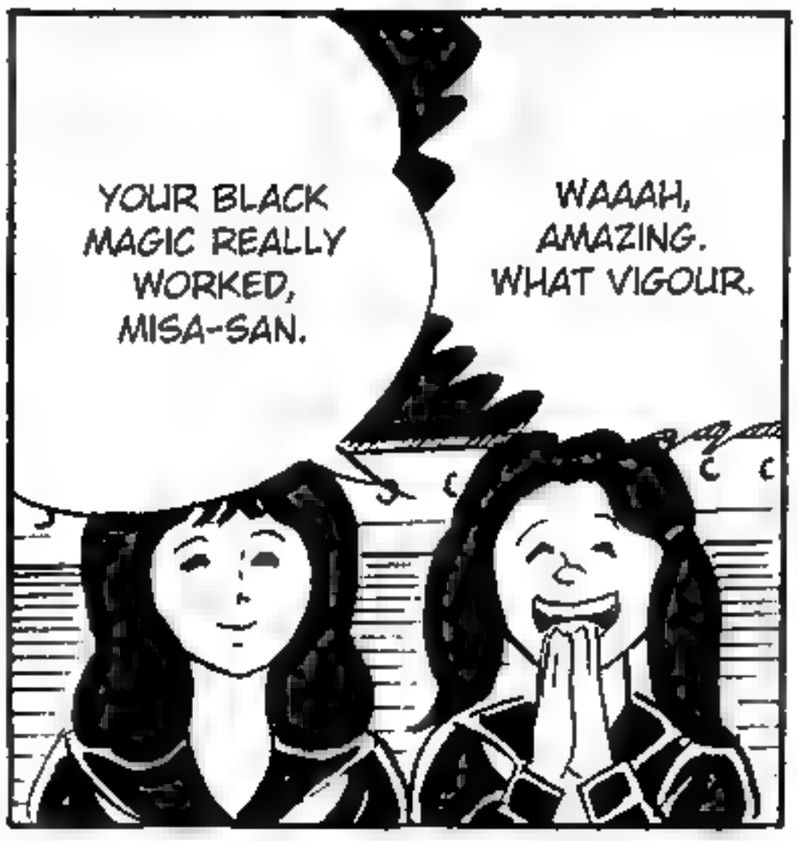
IN THE EEEAST WE'VE AKITAYAMAAA...

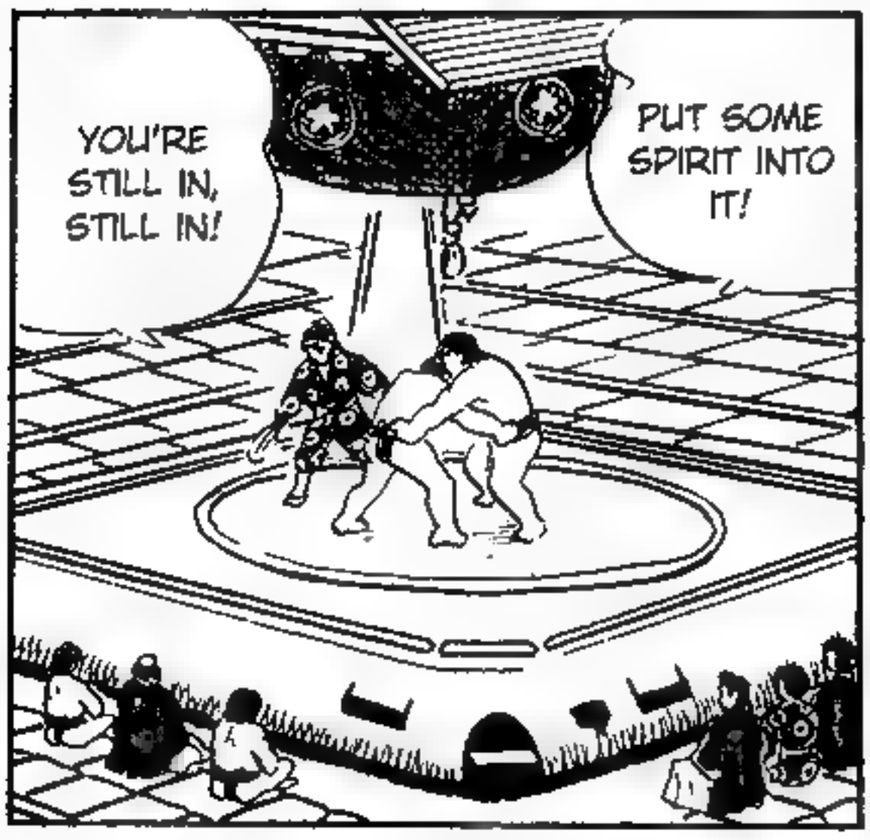
AND IN THE WEEEST OOSATOOO...



B... BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HE'S BOUND TO GET HIS FIRST VICTORY MARK TODAY.

NO WAY...
EH?


YOUR BLACK MAGIC REALLY WORKED, MISA-SAN.
WAAAH, AMAZING. WHAT VIGOUR.


YOU'RE STILL IN, STILL IN!
PUT SOME SPIRIT INTO IT!

YES, HE SURELY WILL.
THOUGH WITH HIS GRIT HE'LL SURELY WIN TOMORROW, EVEN IF HE WERE TO FAIL TODAY.

NO MATTER THE MAGIC, IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD THAT QUICK AN EFFECT.
WHY ARE YOU SO UNEASY?

♣アザラク
♣エHHH

TRANSFORMATION AT THE BEAUTY SALON

ペチャクチャ

滝村デパート

OH MY!

OH HEY, THE NEW ISSUE OF PRINCESS IS OUT.

PRINCESS MANGA PRIZE

PRESENTING THE WINNERS:

STORY DIVISION

THE WITCH'S CURSE

MISA KUROI

LOOK AT THIS!

HUH, WHAT'RE YOU BEING SO LOUD FOR?

AND RECENTLY SHE'S BEEN IN HIGH SPIRITS LEARNING TO BE A BEAUTICIAN.

I'M TOLD SHE DOES PART TIME WORK AS A FORTUNE TELLER AT NIGHT TOO.

SHE'S OH SO SKILLFUL, SHE CAN DO WHATEVER SHE PUTS HER MIND TO.

AND SHE WON AN AWARD TOO, MUST BE PRETTY GOOD.

WELL BLOW ME DOWN, MISA-SAN DRAWS MANGA.

MM, WHEN SCHOOL'S OVER SHE'S BEEN GOING TO THE NEARBY BEAUTY SALON AS AN APPRENTICE.

HEEH, A BEAUTICIAN EH...

ビューティーサロン・ゆき

T/N: THE SIGN READS "BEAUTY SALON - YUKI".

MM, IT'S WONDERFUL. GREAT JOB.

AND HOW IS THAT?

I WANNA READ IT FIRST!

GIMME THAT!

ONCE IN A WHILE IT MIGHT BE NICE TO TRY BLONDE.

MM, I'D BEEN HAVING A THINK...

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT YOUR HAIR DYED, MA'AM?

EH, COULD YOU SPEAK UP?

ONCE IN A WHILE IT MIGHT BE WORTH...

HUH, YOU CAN'T EVEN READ THE CHARACTERS!

EH, WHAT WAS THAT?!

CAN TOO!

ONCE IN A WHILE IT MIGHT BE WORTH...

B... BALLS YOU SAY?!

T/N: MISA MISHEARS TAMANI (ONCE IN A WHILE) FOR TAMAKIN (BALLS).

?

OH NO, MA'AM. YOU CAN'T DYE BALLS.

DON'T BE FILTHY!

WH... WHO WOULD SAY SUCH NONSENSE!

AHAHA, IHIHI, UFUFU, EHEHE...

I'M A LADY, I DON'T HAVE THEM!

BUT I'M SURE YOU SAID BALLS...

QUIET YOU TWOOOO!

GIYAAH!

GAAOH!

HOW RUDE DO YOU WANT TO BE?!

O... OF COURSE NOT...

AAAAARGH, SCAAARY!

YOU GUYS JUST KEEP PRATTLING ON, SHUT UUUP!

YOUNG GIRLS THESE DAYS ARE REALLY LACKING IN SENSE!

EH, TH... THEY'RE YOUR KIDS?!

MAMA, THAT GIRL IS BULLYING US.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR DEEPEST APOLOGIES.

WE TRULY ARE SO SORRY...

ENOUGH, THINK I'LL BE COMING HERE AGAIN?!

PUT A BIT MORE EFFORT INTO YOUR APOLOGY.

S... SORRY.

BOW YOUR HEAD, KUROI-SAN!

IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIH!

YAAAH, SERVES YOU RIGHT!

NOW, IN HERE.

I'M TOO MUCH OF A SCATTERBRAIN.

SHE'S GONNA SCOLD ME AGAIN.

YES.

A WORD, KUROI-SAN.

BUT I'M AN APPRENTICE, SO I CAN'T HELP IT...

WHEN IN A STERN MOOD SHE'LL NAG AND NAG AND NAG, IT'S A NIGHTMARE.

SHE'S A VERY HARD TO PLEASE WOMAN.

...

WE... WE'VE A CUSTOMER.

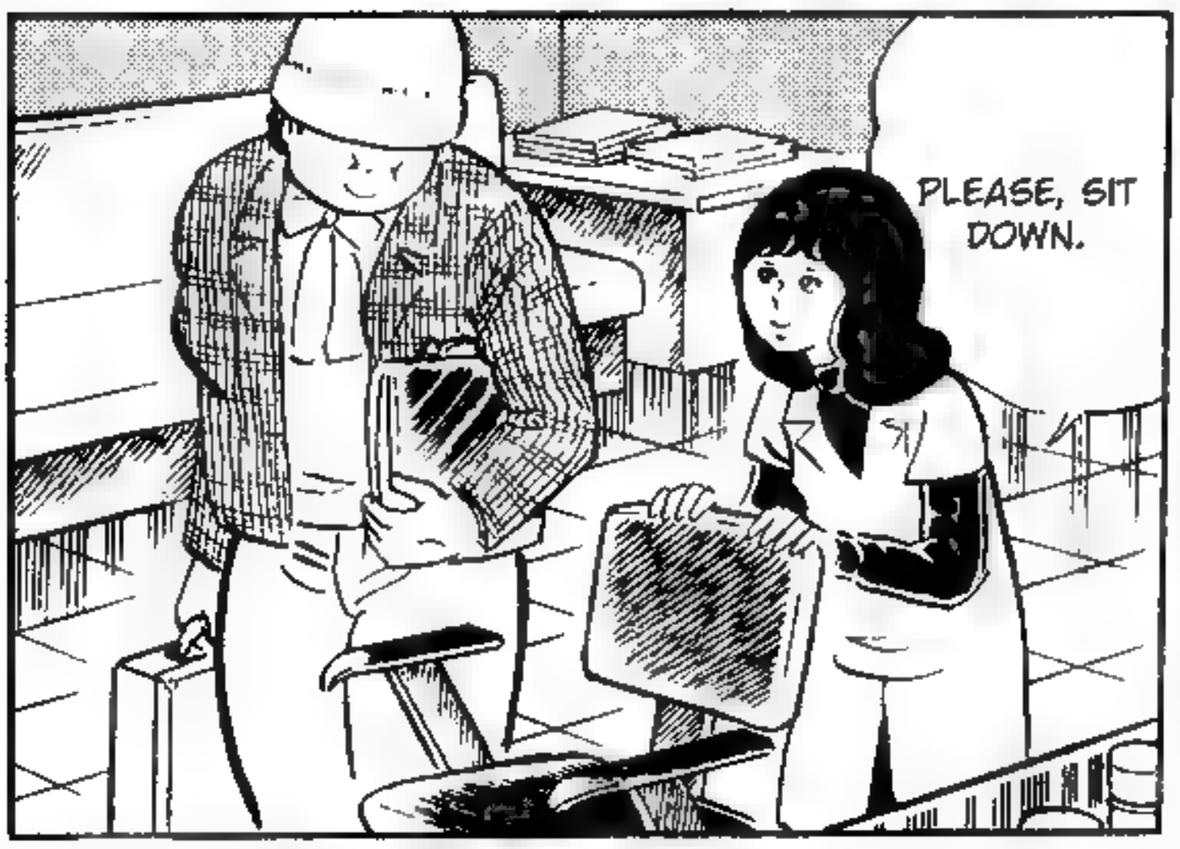
!

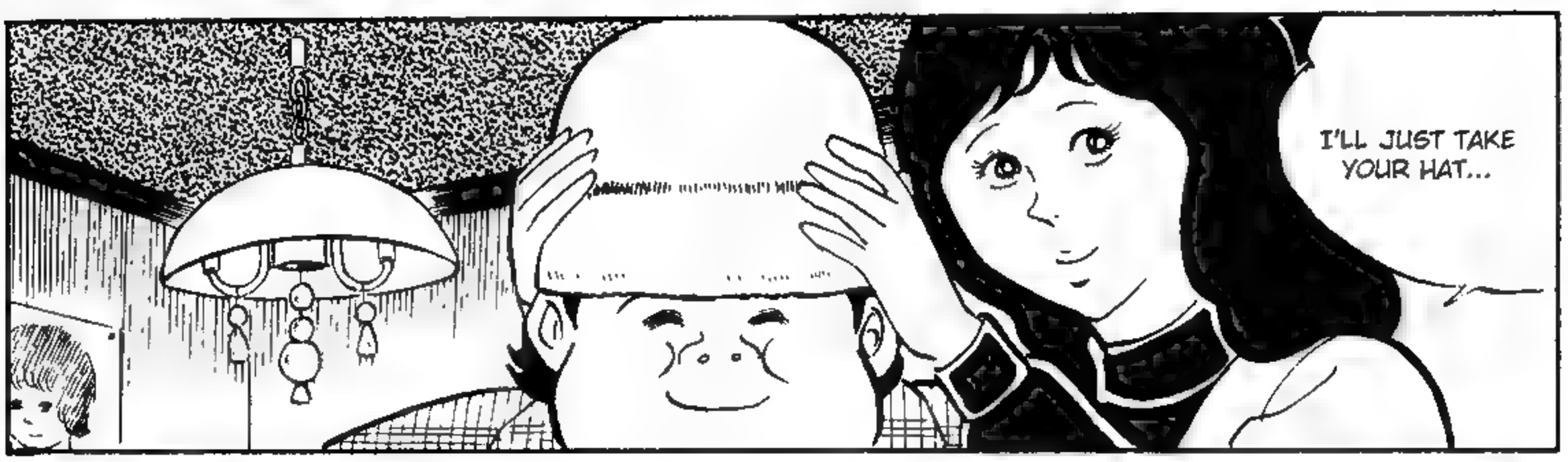
YES, YES. I'LL BE THERE AT ONCE.

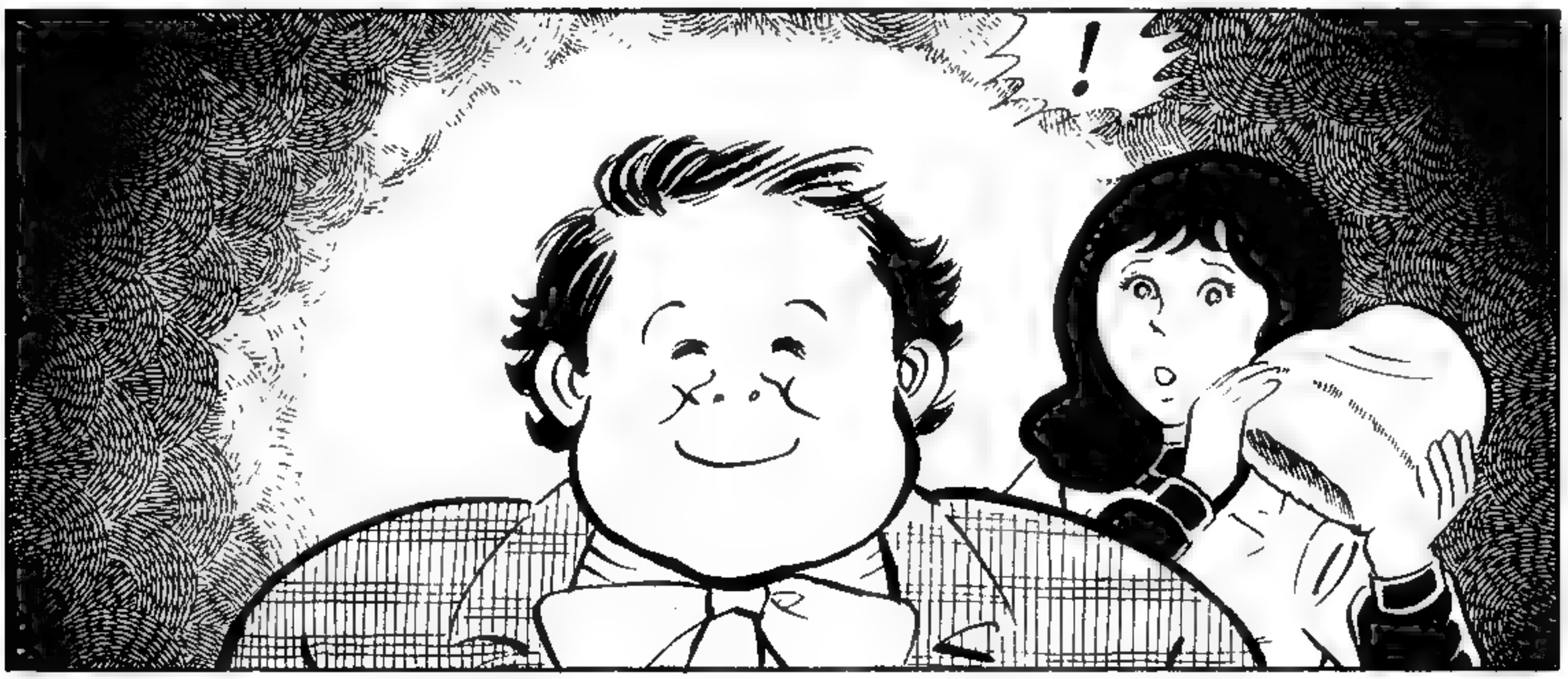
TODAY'S AWFULLY BUSY.

I... I'LL SERVE THEM RIGHT AWAY.

WELCOME.


PLEASE, SIT DOWN.


I'LL JUST TAKE YOUR HAT...



IT'S FINE, I DON'T MIND. EVERYONE THINKS THAT AT FIRST.

I KNOW, YOU WANT TO SAY I LOOK LIKE A MAN.

EH, NO. IT'S NOTHING.

IS SOMETHING WRONG, YOU'VE A PUZZLED LOOK ON YOUR FACE...

OHOHOHO...

OHOHOHOHO.

I'VE AN IMPORTANT MARRIAGE INTERVIEW AFTER.

BUT FOR TODAY I NEED TO BE LIKE A PROPER LADY.

SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THAT ILLUSTRATION WOULD DO.

SO, WHAT HAIR STYLE ARE YOU LOOKING TO HAVE...?

IN THAT CASE I'LL PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS.

MOVE ASIDE, YOU CAN'T HANDLE THIS.

AH I SEE.

AN OLDER WOMAN EH, USE A WIG.

BUT MA'AM, YOUR HAIR...

EH?!

I'M SURE I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE.

BUT YOU KNOW...

OH MY, IS THAT SO. OHOHOHO.

I BELIEVE THE HAIR STYLE WOULD SUIT YOU TO A T.

A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

LOVELY, NO. YOU'RE A REAL CHARMING WOMAN NOW.

HOW IS THAT THEN, MA'AM.

HMMM, I CAN'T RECALL.

BUT WHERE IN THE WORLD WAS IT.

?!

AH, I KNOW!

C... COULD YOU NOT INSULT A CUSTOMER.

UFUFU.

SHE RESEMBLES THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THE MANGA I DREW.

DEARIE ME, AHAHA.

T/N: THE MAGAZINE READS "PRINCESS".

EH?!

A THRILLER EH, SOUNDS FUN. I'LL HAVE A READ THROUGH.

OHOHOHO.

OH MY, IT'S TRUE!

DO I RESEMBLE THEM THAT MUCH? LEMME SEE.

IT'S FINE.

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SHY, THIS IS YOUR AWARD WINNING WORK AFTER ALL.

OH NO, IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING. PLEASE DON'T!

HAAH, HAAH.

OH MY, IT'S THE WOMAN I RESEMBLE!

...

MY, SHE KILLS HER HUSBAND.

OHOHOHO, THIS IS FINE.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY...

SHE'S A MURDERER...

プリンセス

AAAAAARGH!

WH... WHAT HAVE I DONE...

AAH!

THEY'LL SOON LOCK ME UP IN SOME DARK PRISON.

AAH, JUST WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?!

OUR MARITAL SPAT HAS TURNED INTO SOMETHING TERRIBLE!

I KNOW, I'LL ESCAPE FROM THE POLICE FOR AS LONG AS I CAN.

UUH...

NO, IF IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE THIS I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF DEAD!

HAAH, HAAH.

AAA!!

I'LL SAY HE WENT FAR AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP.

ODD FOR SOMEONE MY AGE NO, OHOHOHO.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO THE TOILET AT NIGHT NOW.

I'M SORRY...

BUT THE PROTAGONIST REALLY DOES RESEMBLE ME.

I DON'T THINK I COULD READ ANY FURTHER.

MY, WHAT A SCARY MANGA.

NOT AT ALL, I'VE NO TALENT...

FORGET BEING A BEAUTICIAN THOUGH, YOU'VE A FUTURE AS A MANGA ARTIST...

UFUFU.

YOU NEEDN'T APOLOGISE. I'VE THE SORT OF ORDINARY FACE YOU FIND ALL OVER.

JAPANESE POLICE ARE EXCELLENT AT WHAT THEY DO, SHE WOULDN'T FEEL AT EASE JUST FROM BURYING THE BODY.

HOW SO...?

IF THERE'S ONE THING I WOULD WISH FOR THOUGH, IT'S MORE AUTHENTICITY.

OH NO, THE ART'S GOOD, AND THE STORY'S WONDERFUL TOO.

I SEE...

RATHER, SHE'D DO SOMETHING LIKE SELL THE HOUSE AND PRETEND THAT SHE WAS MOVING IN ORDER TO HIDE HERSELF...

THAT'S CERTAINLY MORE AUTHENTIC.

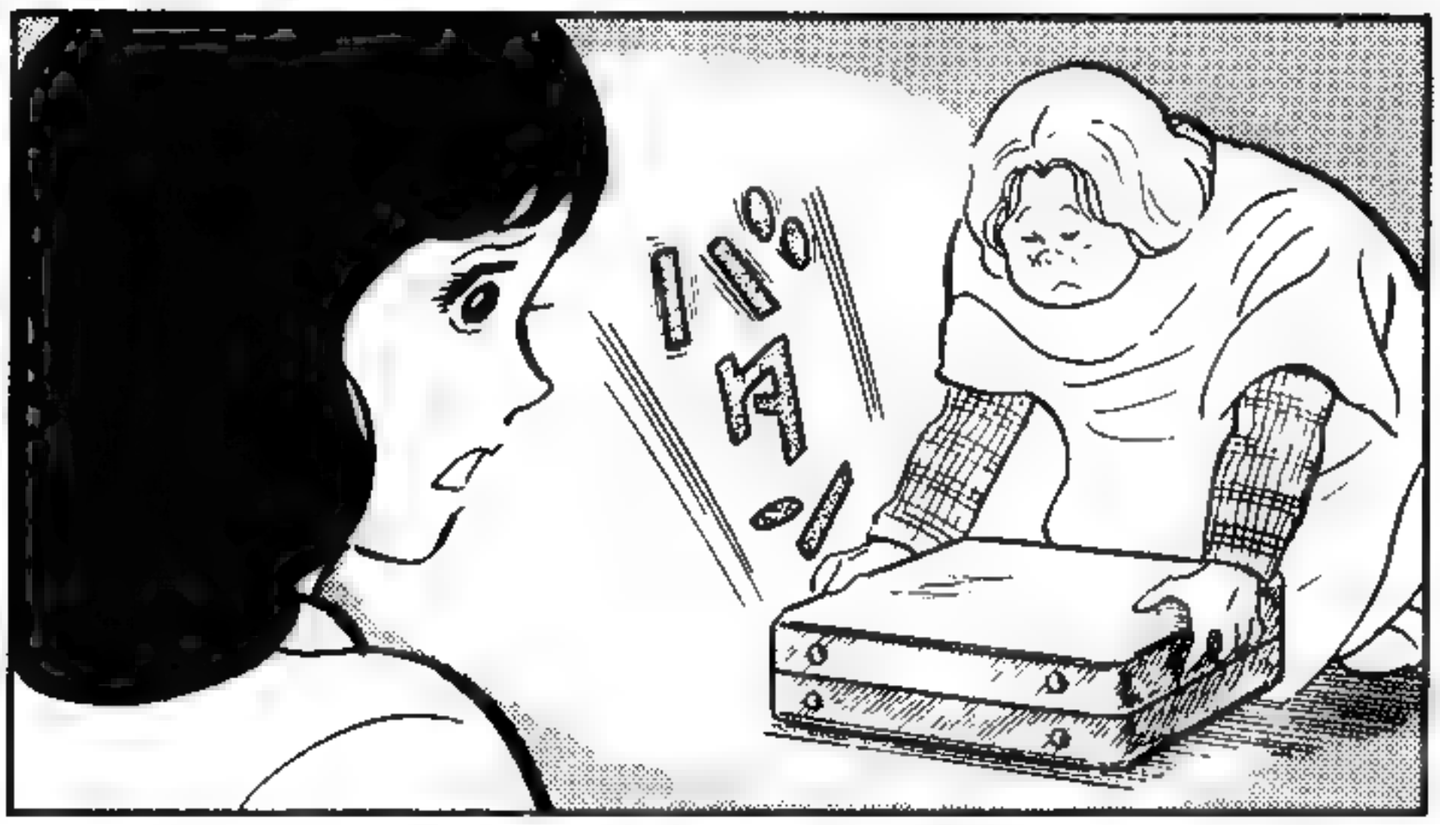
SHE'D STUFF ALL HER MONEY IN A TRUNK...

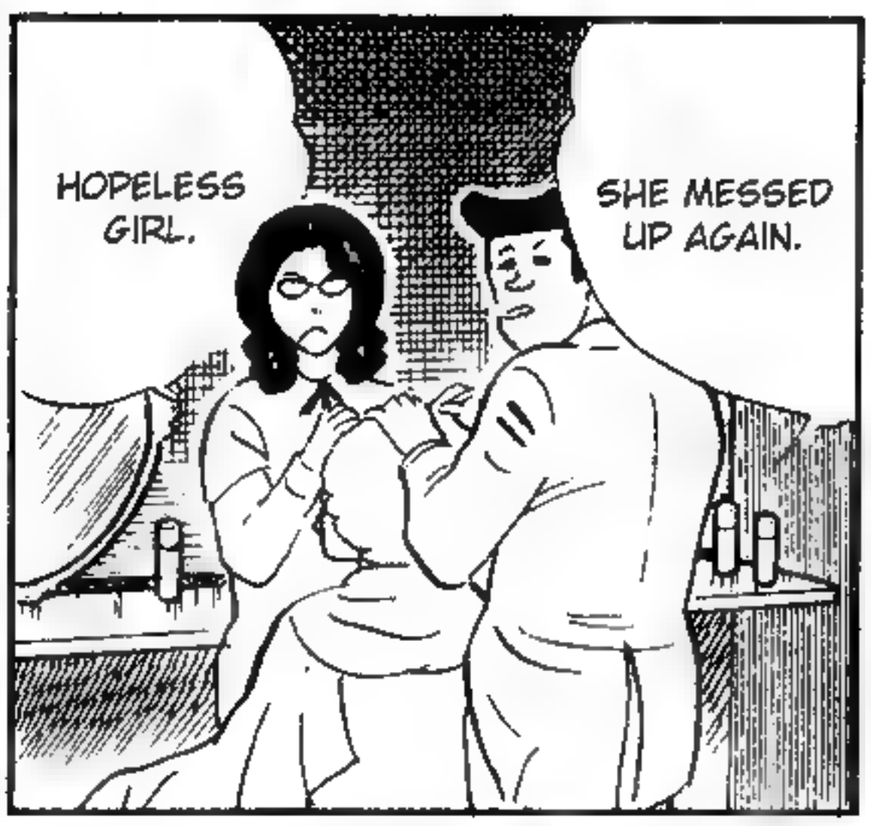
AH!

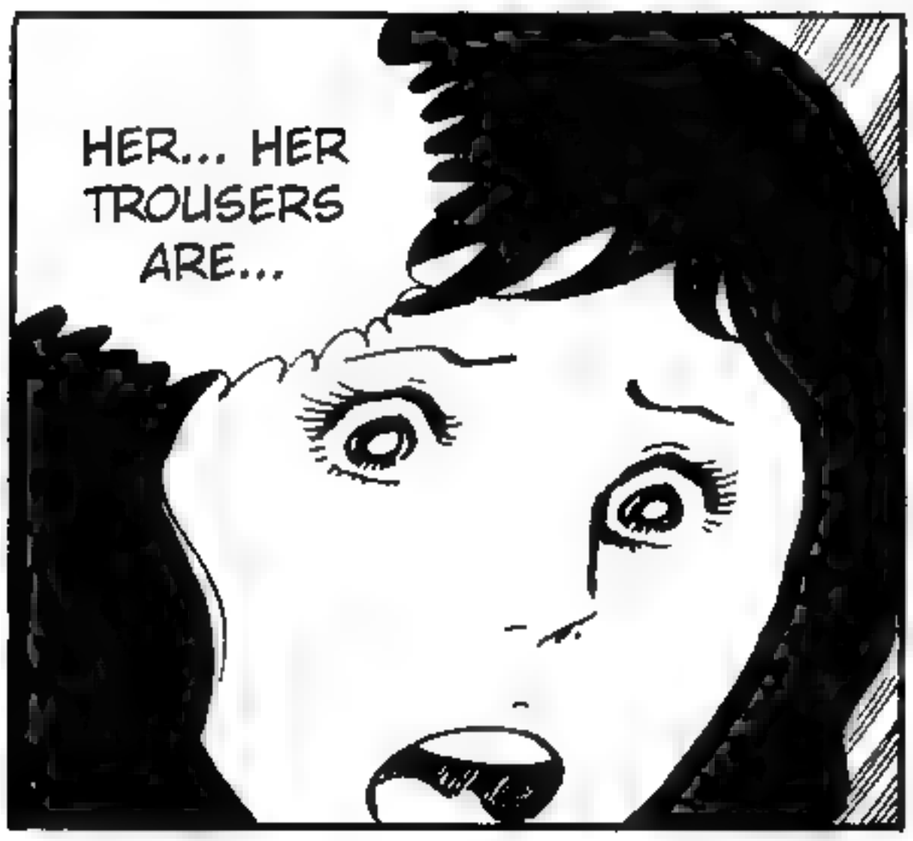
I... I'M SO SORRY!

H... HEY THERE, THAT'S A VALUABLE CASE!

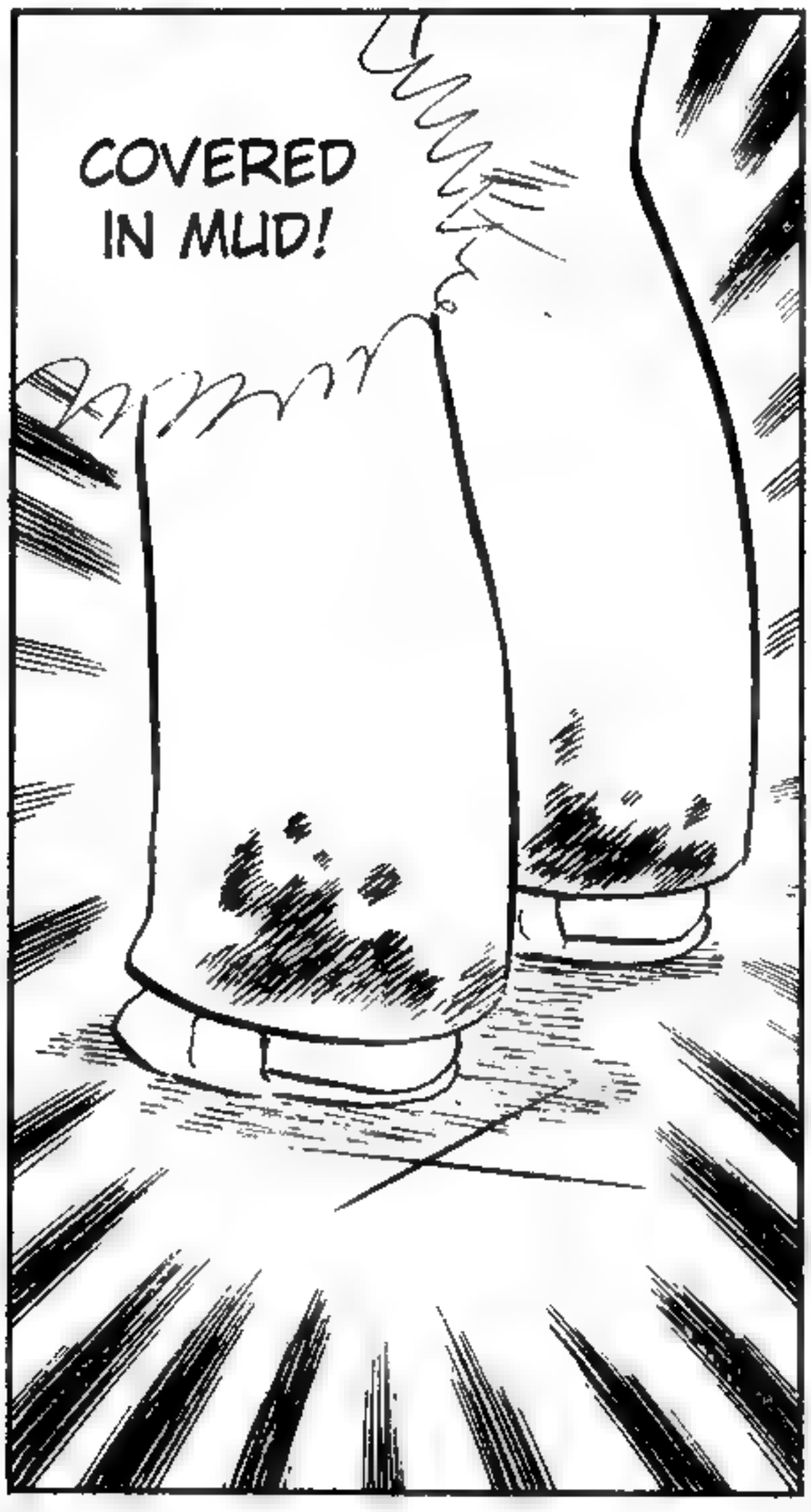
AH!


HA!


HOPELESS GIRL.
SHE MESSED UP AGAIN.


HER... HER TROUSERS ARE...

...


COVERED IN MUD!

HOW CURIOUS, THE COINCIDENCES KEEP PILING UP.

...

THE GIRL'S STILL LEARNING YOU SEE...

I AM EVER SO SORRY, MA'AM.

THE WEATHER TODAY WAS FINE, BUT HER TROUSERS WERE MUDDY...

HAH!

EH, THIS MUCH?!

IT'S FINE, KEEP IT.

I'LL GET YOUR CHANGE...

YOUR FEE.

THERE WE GO. THANKS FOR BEARING WITH ALL THAT.

AND NEED SOMEONE TO HOLD MY CASE.

YOU SEE I'M OFF TO THE STATION.

HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO BORROW THE YOUNG APPRENTICE FOR A MOMENT.

ALRIGHT KUROI-SAN, PLEASE TAKE HER CASE TO THE STATION.

WELL YOU CAN REST AT EASE, SHE'LL GO.

IT MUST BE MY AGE. I'VE BEEN FINDING IT FAR TOO HEAVY TO CARRY.

B... BUT I...

IT'S AS I'M ALWAYS SAYING, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN BUSINESS IS HOW YOU SERVE YOUR CUSTOMERS.

M... ME?!

I'LL GO...

GOT IT.

ARE YOU NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY EITHER?!

BUT NOTHING! YOU ALWAYS MESS UP...

THERE'S STILL ONE PART THAT LACKS REALISM.

YOU KNOW FOR YOUR MANGA...

IT'S THE SCENE WHERE THE PAIR ARE GRAPPLING...

?!

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT IN TERMS OF STRENGTH, THE HUSBAND WOULD KILL THE WIFE.

TRANSFORMATIONS REALLY ARE BEST DONE AT BEAUTY SALONS.

M... MY MANGA JUST HAPPENED TO MATCH!

I CAN'T EXACTLY LET YOU LIVE NOW GIVEN YOU SEEM TO HAVE SNIFFED OUT MY SECRET!

I THINK I DID WELL TO SOUND LIKE A WOMAN.

THIS IS A PHOTO OF MY WIFE, WHO I BURIED IN MY GARDEN.

YOU'RE A... A MAN?!

HE WAS CAUGHT SHORTLY AFTER.

SOMEONE HELP, HE'S A MURDERER!

M... MURDERER!

SHIT, WAAAIT!

♣アザラク
♣エロHUH

THE MONKEY HANDLER REVERSAL!

タオル
ボタン三葉屋

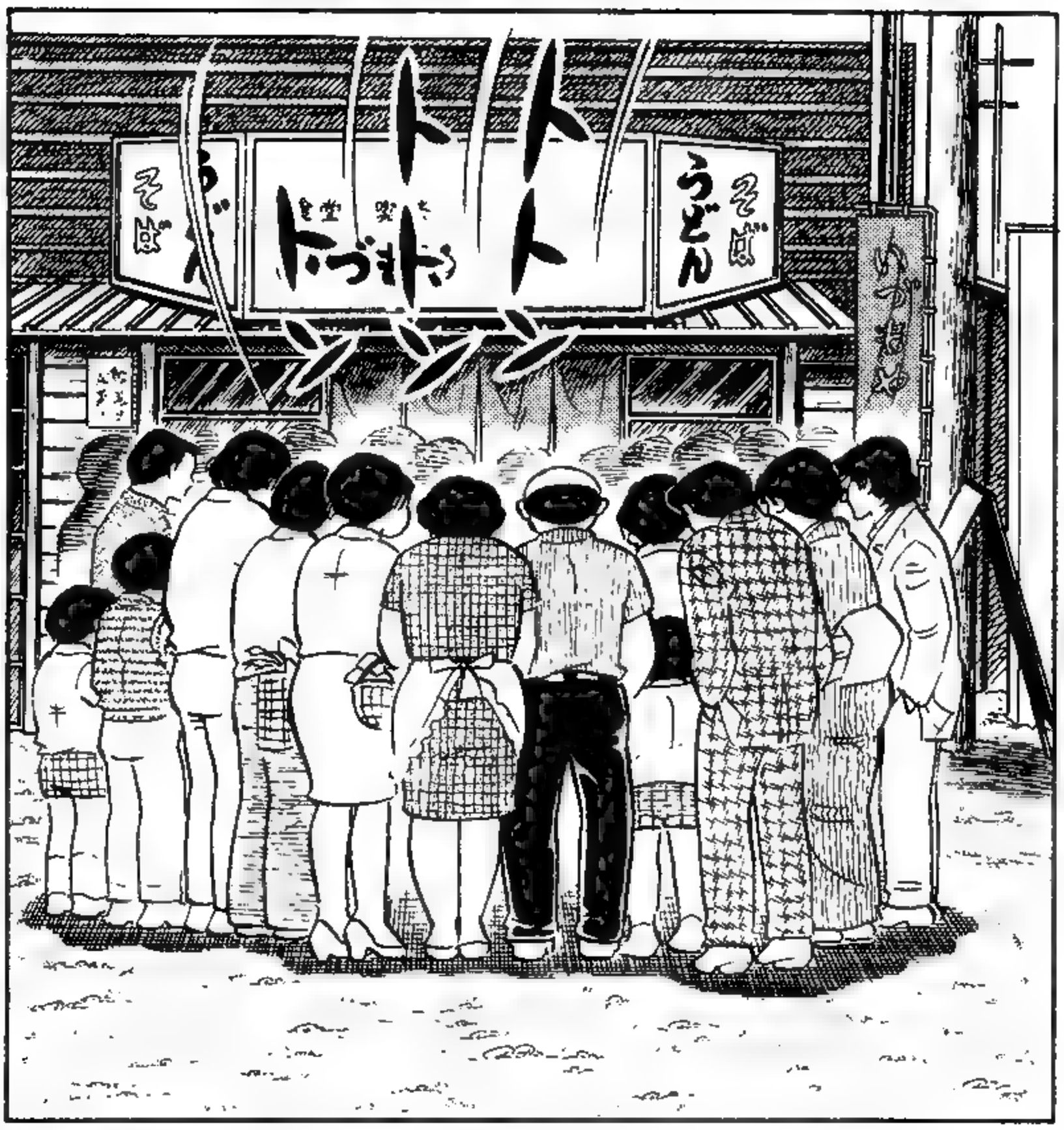
BUT I'VE NOT MUCH OF MY ALLOWANCE LEFT.
WELL, WHY DON'T WE GO HAVE OUR FILL OF RAMEN.
タオル

CLEANING DUTY ALWAYS LEAVES YOU FEELING WORN OUT.
I'M STARVING, TOTALLY STARVING.
HEY, YOU GUYS HUNGRY?
村商店

HM?!

MISA-SAN EARNS A LOT FROM HER PART TIME JOB.
WOAH, YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING WELL MONEY WISE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT MONEY, IT'LL BE MY TREAT.

WHAT'S GOING ON?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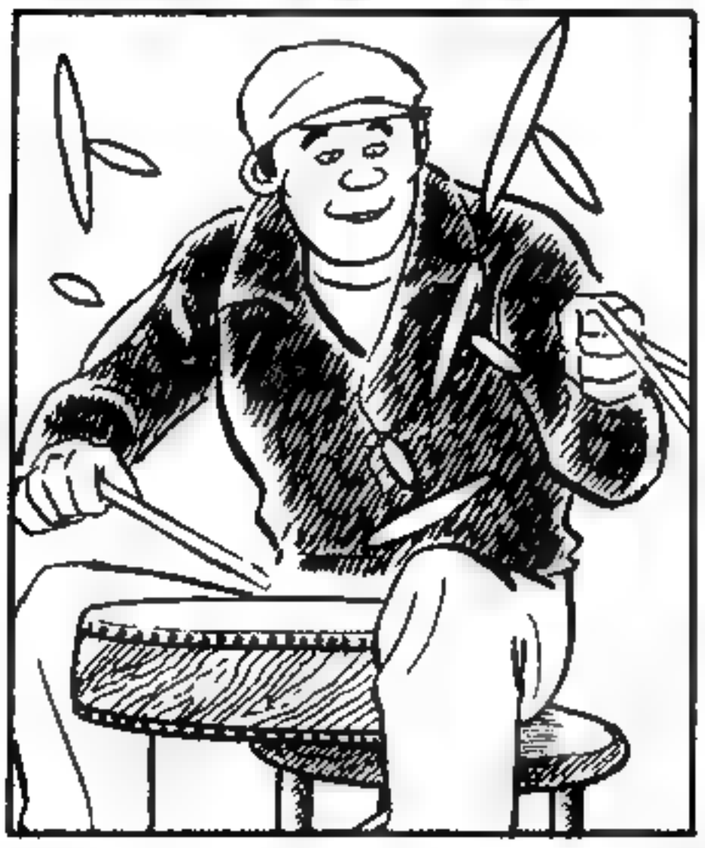
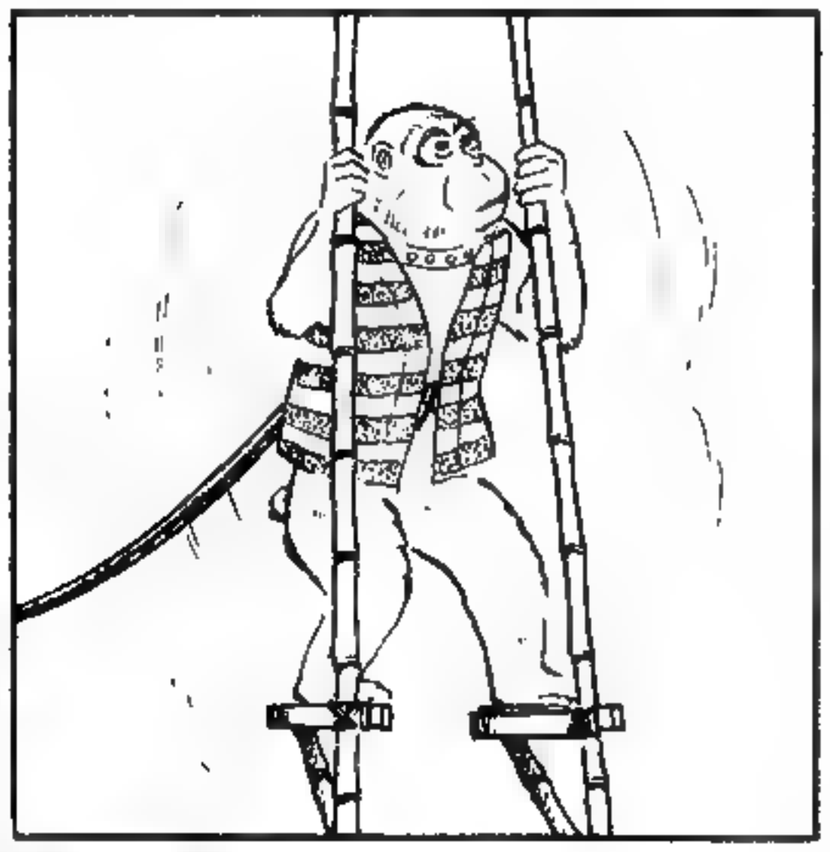




OH MY, A MONKEY HANDLER!

AND THE CAPE.

OKAY, PUT THE HAT ON.

ALRIGHT, NEXT WE'LL PERFORM KANICHI AND OMIYA.

T/N: THESE ARE TWO CHARACTERS FROM THE NOVEL "KONJIKI YASHA" BY KOUYOU OZAKI.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, COME THIS WAY ALREADY. WE NEED TO SET UP.

KANICHI AND OMIYA WERE TAKING A MOONLIT WALK THROUGH ATAMI.

EEEEH, SHUT UP!

KANICHI-SAN.

I'D LOVE TO AT LEAST ONCE TRY MY HAND AT MONKEY HANDLING.

UFUFUFU.

AHAHAHAHA!

LET'S WATCH A BIT MORE.

JUST A SEC.

WE SHOULD BE GOING, KUROI-SAN.

OI, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!

OUR NEXT PLAY WILL BE OTSUTA AND CHIKARA. PLEASE CLAP.

T/N: THESE TWO ARE FROM THE NOVEL "ONNAKEIZU" BY KYOUKA IZUMI, WHICH WAS LATER MADE INTO A PLAY.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

HAHAHA, YOU'RE LIKE A KID.

HUH, THAT'S THE REASON YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED?

I MEAN, THAT MONKEY HANDLER HASN'T BEEN AROUND RECENTLY.

YOU SEEM AWFULLY DOWN, KUROI-SAN.

SO HE LIVES NEARBY THEN.

OH MY, REALLY NOW.

NO WAY, I OFTEN SEE HIM AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD BATHHOUSE.

I GUESS THEIR HANDLER WOULD'VE BEEN A TRAVELLING PERFORMER WHO'S NOW GONE OFF ELSEWHERE.

BUT THE MONKEYS WERE SO CUTE.

EKO EKO AZARAK...

I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK AT MY CRYSTAL BALL TO SEE WHERE HE LIVES.

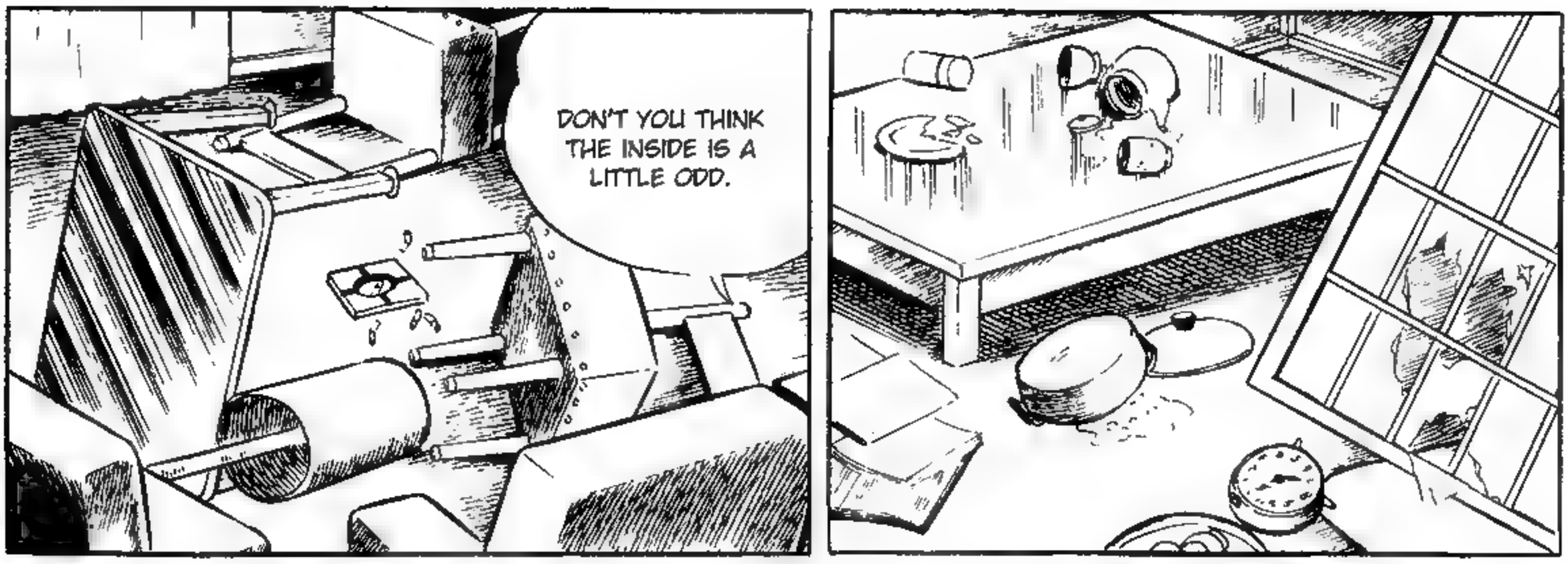
I BET HE DID.

STILL, HE MUST'VE GONE THROUGH GREAT PAINS TO GET THOSE MONKEYS PERFORMING SO WELL.

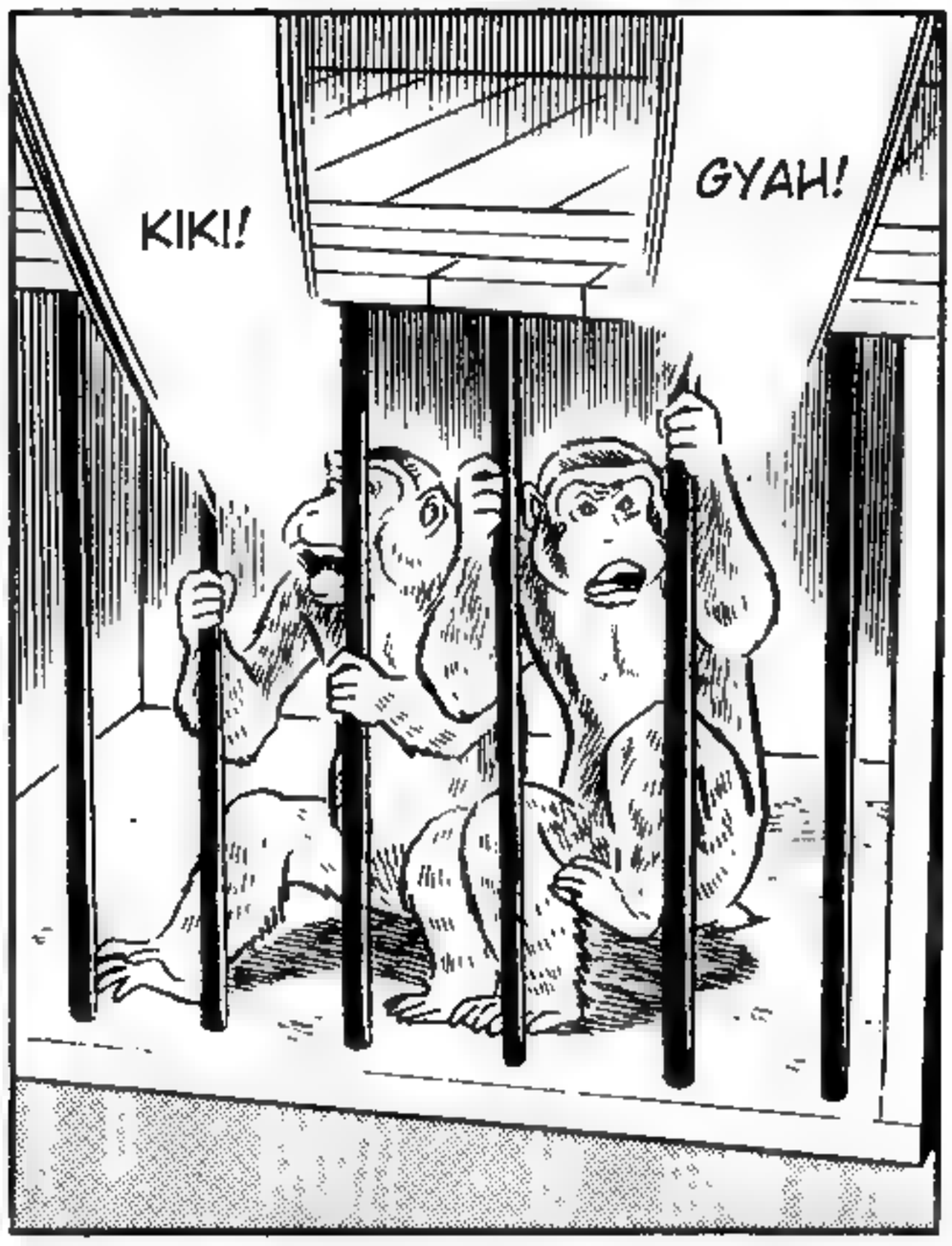
WHAT'S WRONG, KUROI-SAN.

OH MY!

HE LIVES IN THIS BUILDING.

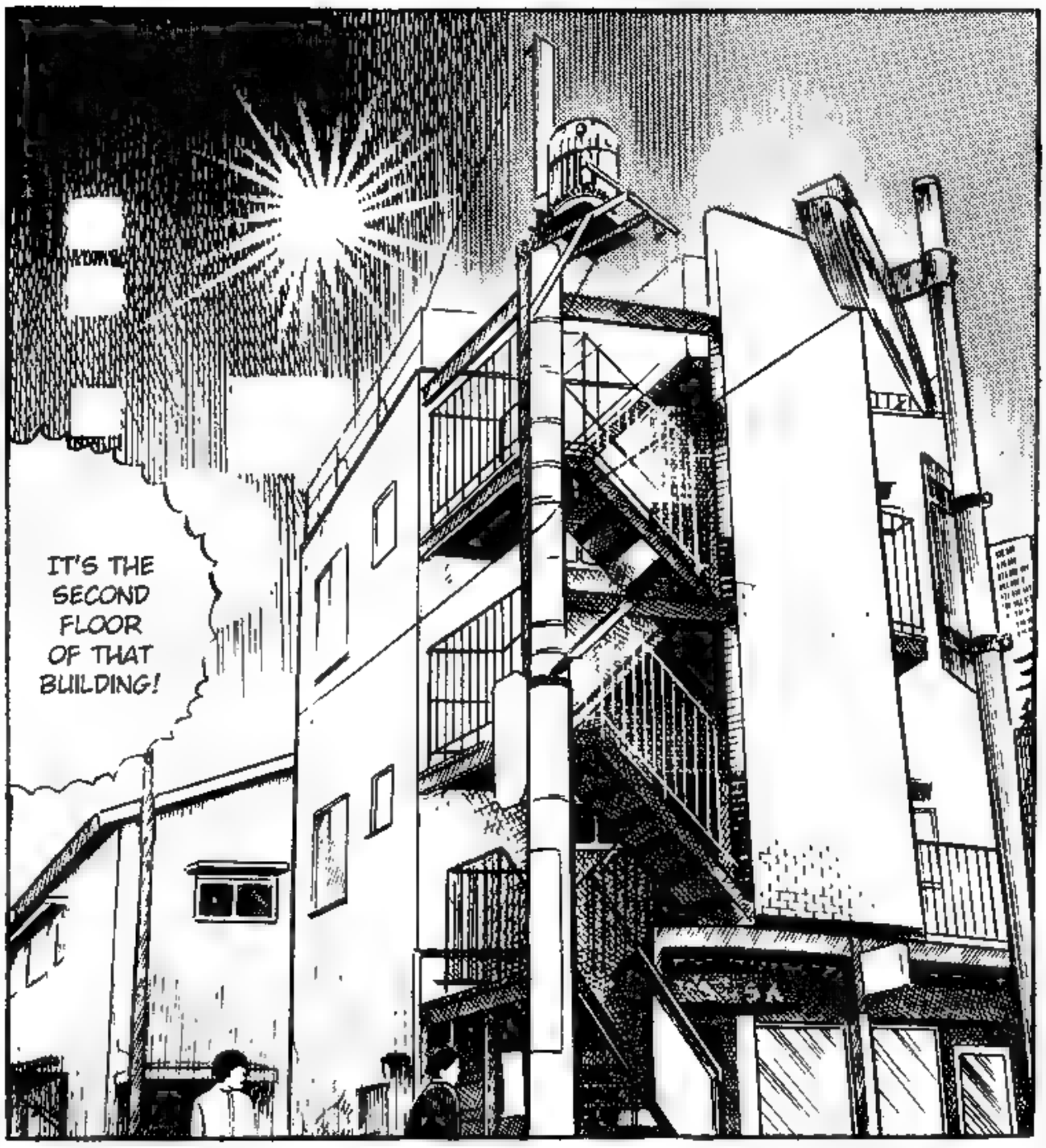

DON'T YOU THINK THE INSIDE IS A LITTLE ODD.

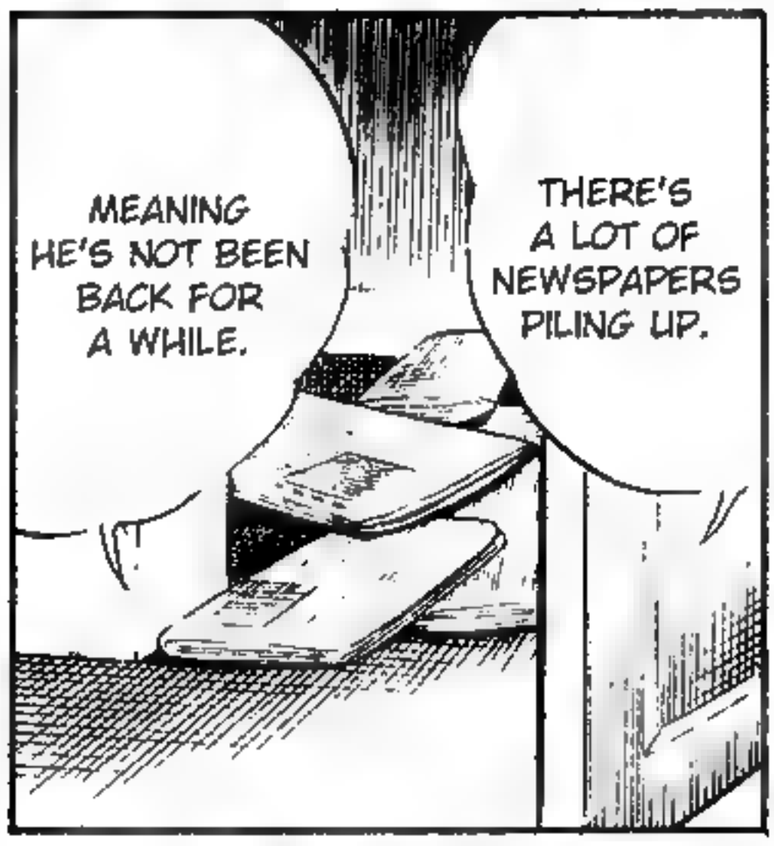
SOMETHING MUST'VE HAPPENED.
THE MONKEY HANDLER'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN, THIS IS DEFINITELY GETTING WEIRD.
LOOK, THE MONKEYS ARE AWFULLY UPSET.


KIK!!
GYAH!

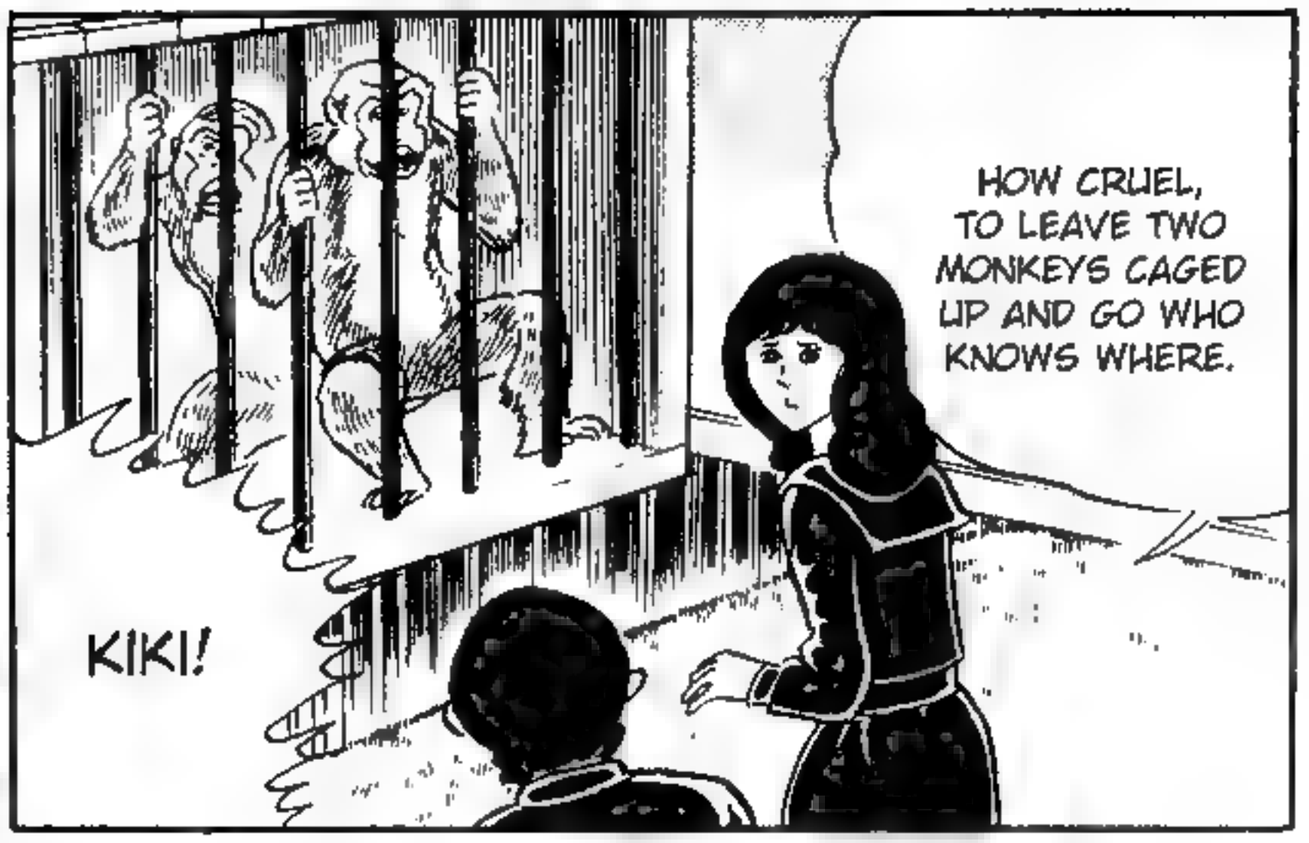
I'M SURE IT WAS AROUND HERE...
CANDIES

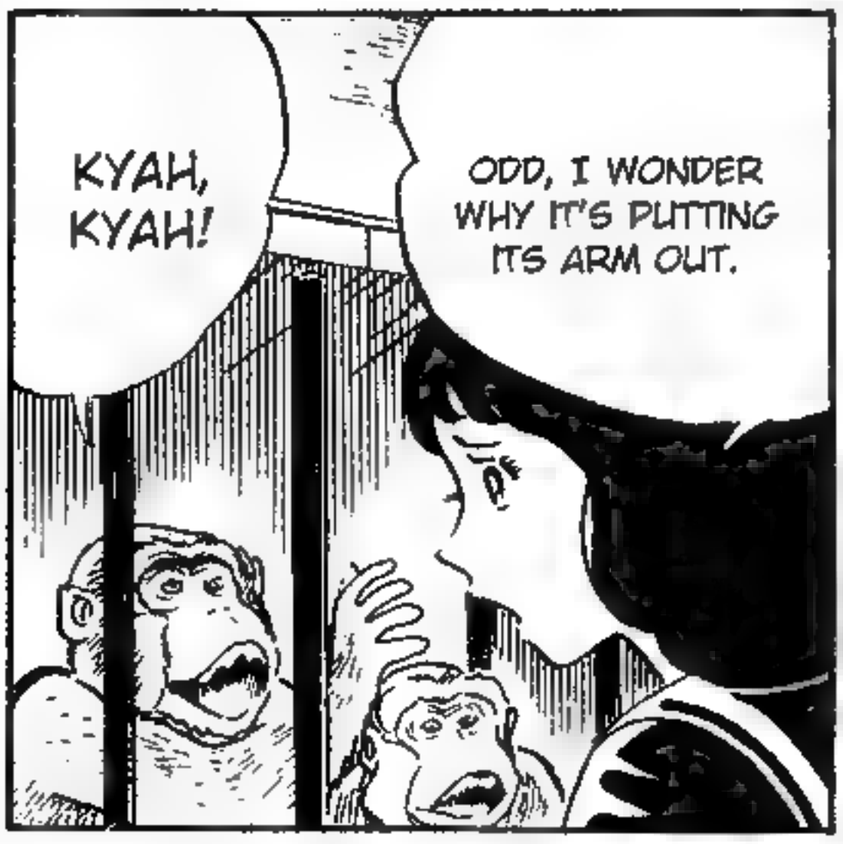
カチャ


IT'S THE SECOND FLOOR OF THAT BUILDING!


MEANING HE'S NOT BEEN BACK FOR A WHILE.
THERE'S A LOT OF NEWSPAPERS PILING UP.

KIKIII!
POOR THINGS ARE STARVING.


KIKI!
HOW CRUEL, TO LEAVE TWO MONKEYS CAGED UP AND GO WHO KNOWS WHERE.


KYAH, KYAH!
ODD, I WONDER WHY IT'S PUTTING ITS ARM OUT.

KIKI!
OH, YOU DON'T WANT THEM.

YES, YES. I BROUGHT SOME BANANAS FOR YOU.

KYAAAAH!

THEY'RE JUST ADORABLE!

I GUESS SO, AHAHAHA.

OH MY.

IT PUT HIS HAND OUT FOR A HANDSHAKE.

THIS IS A REALLY IN DEPTH JOURNAL HE KEPT FROM WHEN THEY WERE BABY MONKEYS.

SO IT IS.

IT'S ALL WRITTEN IN THIS JOURNAL.

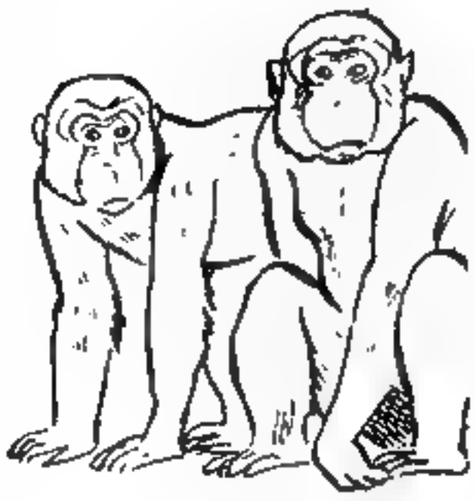
ONE'S TAROUMARU AND ONE'S JIROUMARU.

I WONDER WHAT THEIR NAMES ARE.

WELL, IT ANY GOOD?

TRY MY COOKING.

MY TWO SONS DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT FIVE YEARS PRIOR. RAISING THE MONKEYS WAS SIMPLY A WAY TO FORGET MY LONELINESS.



I'VE RAISED TWO MONKEYS, YET IT WAS BY NO MEANS SO THAT I COULD PERFORM AS A MONKEY HANDLER...

YES, YES, YOU'RE DOING GREAT.

YOU HOLD THE BOWL LIKE THIS...

HAHAHA, DON'T EAT LIKE THAT.

MUPPET, YOU ATE THE CHOPSTICKS AND ALL.

YOU'RE GREAT KIDS.

GOOD, GOOD.

ALRIGHT, LEMME WASH YOUR BACKS.

THAT'S WHY HIS MISSUS LEFT HIM.

WH... WHAT IN THE WORLD?!

HE'S ALWAYS AT IT, TRYING TO TEACH THEM.

OI, LOOK. HE'S READING TO THOSE MONKEYS.

WE'LL WORK ON YOUR CHARACTERS NEXT.

NOW, GRAB THE PEN.

LOSING BOTH HIS SONS AT ONCE MIGHT WELL HAVE DRIVEN HIM CRAZY.

KO

COME ON ALREADY, GET SERIOUS!

IDIOT, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

HERE I AM, ALWAYS TRYING MY BEST TO TEACH YOU, YET YOU CAN'T EVEN WRITE YOUR OWN NAME?!

THE HELL'S THAT?!

KIII, KIII!

GET TO IT, WRITE YOUR OWN NAME.

I'M JUST THINKING OF YOUR FUTURES!

OI, YOU TRYING TO RUN!

GOT IT!

LISTEN UP! YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY FOOD IF YOU DON'T STUDY PROPERLY!

...

WHY EXACTLY WOULD AN OWNER LIKE THAT JUST VANISH.

THREE WHOLE YEARS...

AND ACCORDING TO THE JOURNAL HE LIVED LIKE THIS FOR THREE YEARS!

THIS IS QUITE SHOCKING. NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, HE WASN'T NORMAL.

TELL YOU WHAT, I'LL TAKE OVER AS THEIR HANDLER.

AT ANY RATE, IF WE LEAVE THE MONKEYS THEY'LL STARVE TO DEATH.

PLUS HE LEFT HIS BELOVED MONKEYS...

PLUS I FEEL KINDA ATTACHED TO THEM.

SURE, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY IT.

EH, YOU?!

I MIGHT'VE PULLED THE ROPE A BIT TOO HARD.

OH NO.

PLEASE CLAP.

NEXT, WE'LL PUT ON OTSUTA AND CHIKARA.

S... SORRY.

WHAT'RE YOU MAD FOR.

?!

EH?!

I GUESS I WAS HITTING THE DRUM WRONG.

BREAKING UP, SEPARATION. SUCH IS, UH, WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE TALKED OF WHILE I WAS A GEISHA.

SO THEN, OSTUTA AND CHIKARA...

OKAY, I'LL HIT IT HARDER!

T/N: MISA'S LINE IS FROM THE PLAY VERSION OF "ONNAKEIZU".

JUST WHAT AREN'T YOU SATISFIED WITH?!

EH, DID I MESS SOMETHING UP AGAIN?!

KYAH! KYAH!

KYAH! KYAH!

BREAKING UP, SEPARATION. SUCH IS WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE TALKED OF WHILE I WAS A GEISHA.

KYAH! KYAH!

DID I MESS UP THE LINE?

BREAKING UP, SEPARATION. SUCH IS WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE TALKED OF WHILE I...

GYAH! GYAH!

WELL, HOW WAS THAT.

I CAN'T TELL WHICH OF US IS MEANT TO BE THE HANDLER ANYMORE.

BREAKING UP, SEPARATION...

OUCH!

YOU'RE SAYING YOU WANT THE LINE WITH FEELING.

I... I GET IT.

I REALLY AM A FAILURE AS A MONKEY HANDLER.

AND DESPITE ALL THAT, THERE'S NO AUDIENCE AT ALL.

AND SO ONE DAY...

IS THAT HIM?!

OH MY!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, YOU WERE DEFINITELY THE MONKEY HANDLER!

ME, A MONKEY HANDLER?

THEN JUST WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON...?

NO WAY, I'D NEVER DO SOMETHING THAT CRUEL.

YOU SAY I LEFT THEM?

YOUR POOR MONKEYS WERE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE AFTER YOU LEFT THEM.

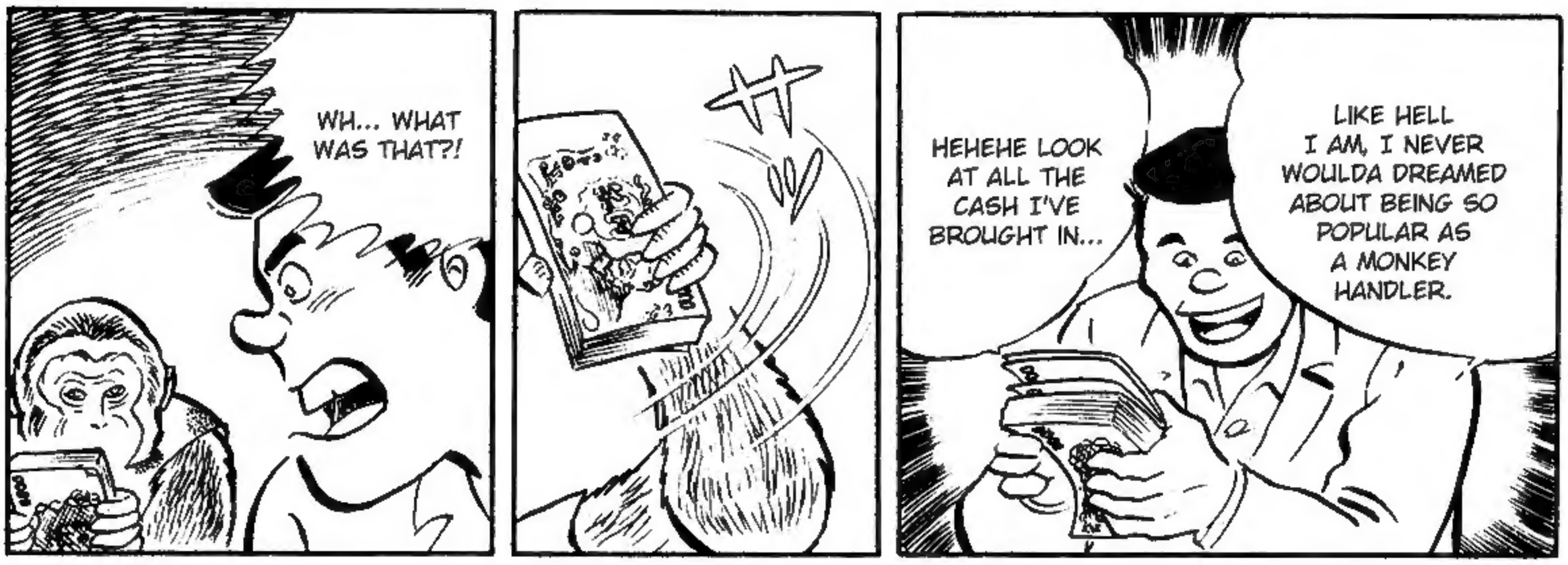
NO WAY. TELL ME, WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE BACK HOME?

TAKE A GOOD LOOK, I'M JUST A TRAMP.

OH MY, YOU'RE IN AN AWFULLY GOOD MOOD THERE.

HEY, MA'AM, SERVE ME SOME OF THAT SAKE RIGHT UP!

LET'S SEE, IT WOULDA BEEN ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO...


WH... WHAT WAS THAT?!
HEHEHE LOOK AT ALL THE CASH I'VE BROUGHT IN...
LIKE HELL I AM, I NEVER WOULDA DREAMED ABOUT BEING SO POPULAR AS A MONKEY HANDLER.
EH?!
YOU EARN NOTHING BY SELF.
COME ON, GIMME IT BACK!
LISTEN. AUDIENCE COME. SEE US PERFORM. PAY MONEY.
DON'T FORGET.
YOU CAN SPEAK HUMAN?!
INCREDIBLE. THEY'VE LIVED WITH ME FOR SO LONG, YET THEY ACTUALLY HAVE HUMAN INTELLECT!
UUH...

PERHAPS THIS IS ME GETTING MY JUST DESSERTS...

AND YET AT PRESENT I AM, AS YOU CAN WELL SEE, HOMELESS, HAVING BEEN DRIVEN OUT...

YOU'VE JUST BEEN OVERTHINKING THINGS!

THAT'S INSANE!

BEFORE I KNEW IT THE MONKEYS HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF MY RIGHT TO LIFE.

...

AFTER ALL I'M A USELESS MAN WHO SPENDS MONEY WILDLY.

Urgent Recruit

Monkey handler wanted to perform. High pay! Serious applicants only!

Telephone: 2

WHAT COULD THEY BE DOING THIS LATE AT NIGHT...

OH, IT'S THE TWO MONKEYS.

Urgent Rec

Monkey ha wanted to High pay! S applicants

Telephone:

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Monkey handler wanted to perform. High pay! Serious applicants only!

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EKO EKO AZARAK VOLUME 9 - END